GIFTS OF THE HOLY *Spirit*

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The insights shared in this book come from lessons learned through my own personal experience, study, and journey with God, as well as what I have learned from many ministers of God through their books, sermons, and from observing their lives and ministries. To each of these ministers of God, many of whom I have never met in person, I am grateful. I am also extremely thankful to the team of pastors and ministers at All Peoples Church, Bangalore, for continually pressing forward, taking risks, and growing in our journey in the things of the Spirit. Additionally, the Weekend Schools are a great place of learning, as we interact, discuss, and step out into what the Spirit of God has. Hence, to all who have attended (and continue to attend) the Weekend Schools, "Thank you!" for helping us grow together. In all things, let Christ be glorified and His Church edified.

A Word To Pastors And Leaders

Dear Pastor/Christian Leader,

The Lord Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to fully represent Him through the Church and through every believer. He desires for His glory to be manifested through every believer. The Holy Spirit is here to glorify Jesus Christ and eagerly desires to manifest Himself through every believer by His gifts. The same Holy Spirit who produces fruit desires to manifest Himself through the gifts. The gifts of the Spirit are the believer's toolbox and without it, most are ineffective for the Kingdom. Please feel free to use this book to train and equip God's people in the power of the Spirit and in the manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit.

Imagine a local church community where every believer is trained and equipped to release the gifts of the Holy Spirit to impact lives. Jesus Christ will be truly glorified and exalted in and through such a community of believers! Let every local church become such a community! Let's make this journey together!

God Bless!
Ashish Raichur

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INTRODUCTION

This book is intended to be a simple and easy to use training manual to help believers understand and learn how to flow with the Holy Spirit to release the gifts of the Spirit. The goal is to see believers moving and releasing the gifts of the Spirit regularly, anywhere, and at any time as the Spirit of the Lord moves through them.

For a long time, probably due to a lack of proper equipping, believers have had a wrong perspective on the gifts of the Spirit. We attended church meetings expecting the man or woman of God, up on the platform to manifest one or more of the gifts of the Spirit, and we stood as recipients or spectators and admirers of what happened. We relegated the expression of the gifts of the Spirit to special church services and through special anointed people. That of course is not God's intent.

The Lord's desire is for all believers to be endued with and demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit to bear witness to who He is. We are to be His witnesses everywhere, and always. Whether a student, a homemaker, a businessperson, a sportsperson, a doctor, an engineer, a scientist, a lawyer, a government official, a social worker—whatever our vocation may be—we can manifest the gifts of the Spirit right where we are, to bear witness for Jesus Christ. The gifts of the Spirit are like our "toolbox," containing tools given to us to manifest the power of the Holy Spirit, so that the Lord Jesus will be glorified, and people will be touched, ministered to, and transformed, everywhere we go.

The Holy Spirit distributes and manifests these gifts as He wills. But as co-workers with Him, we must earnestly desire these gifts and we must learn how to yield, cooperate, and properly release these gifts so that people will be ministered to as He desires, and Jesus will be glorified. Often, because we do not know how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, we either quench, grieve or even resist His expressions through us.

This training manual is used to equip participants at our Weekend Schools, Christian Leaders Conferences and in our Bible college lectures. **Equipping happens through a combination of instruction, demonstration, activation, and impartation**. During the training, our teams share real-life stories of the gifts of the Spirit in operation and flow in the gifts of the Spirit to demonstrate how these are manifested. We also have individual and group activations, so that people start flowing in the gifts of the Spirit. We pray for impartation so that participants can receive more and go to higher levels in the manifestations of the Spirit and demonstrations of the Spirit's power. We trust you will

be able to use this training manual not only for your own personal benefit but also to train many others in small groups, local churches, conferences, Bible colleges, seminaries, and in other equipping opportunities.

The Holy Spirit is infinite, and the diversities of His expressions are also infinite. The Holy Spirit will move in a variety of ways and His expressions are beyond the definitions and operations that anyone can capture in any book or training program. We do not know it all. We are continuously learning, growing, and progressing into higher realms in the things of the Spirit. **What is presented in this book is a work in progress**. We continue to learn as we receive revelation of His Word, gain insights from the Spirit, learn practical lessons when ministering by the Spirit, and as we observe how the Spirit works through each other.

Let's keep moving into higher realms in the things of the Spirit, to impact lives and glorify Jesus Christ.

God Bless!
Ashish Raichur

1. Supernatural Ministry

The gifts of the Spirit are a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit through the believer. They are manifestations or a making visible of the person, presence, and power of the Holy Spirit through supernatural works. People want to "see" God. They want an encounter with God to know His reality, power, and love. God desires to make Himself known. He desires to "manifest" Himself. One of the ways He desires to do this is through the "manifestations of the Spirit" through the believer.

As believers, we must be open, study, and eagerly desire to see the works of the Lord, which of course, are supernatural. Sometimes we tend to religiously say that we "seek the Lord but we do not seek His hand." That is not necessarily a biblical posture. The Bible encourages us to seek the Lord and to seek His strength. The Scriptures encourage us to study His wonderful works. Consider these passages from Psalms:

Psalm 105:1-4
1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples!
2 Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works!
3 Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!
4 Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

In addition to our giving thanks and singing to the Lord we are to make His deeds known and talk of His wonderful works. In our seeking the Lord, we are encouraged to seek His face and His strength.

Psalm 111:1-3
1 Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.
2 The works of the LORD are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them.
3 His work is honorable and glorious, And His righteousness endures forever.

The works of the Lord—all and everything He does—including the miracles, the gifts of the Spirit, the healings, the signs, and wonders, are great. Those who enjoy God's mighty works take time to study them. The word "studied" in Psalm 111:2, not only has the idea of searching, seeking, and inquiring, but also that of asking, following, pursuing, and frequenting. Those who enjoy the works of God, study His works, and pursue His works. They want more! According to Psalm 111:2-3, His works display His greatness, majesty, honor, and glory!

David expressed his longing and thirsting for God as well as his longing to see God's power and glory. "*O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh*

longs forYou in a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory" (Psalm 63:1-2). We must desire for more of Him and more of His power at work in our lives.

We explore a few truths in this chapter to encourage our appetite for the supernatural.

The Ministry of Jesus

We understand from Scripture that the Lord Jesus Christ, though being God, walked on the earth as a Man, confining Himself to the limitations of a human person. When He began His ministry, He announced that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him and He was anointed to preach, heal, and deliver (Luke 4:18-19). As He went about His ministry, He acknowledged that what He did was by the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:28). The Scriptures also attest to the Lord Jesus ministering by the power of the Holy Spirit, in several places:

Luke 4:14
Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.

Acts 10:38
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Hebrews 2:3-4
3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,
4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

This great message of salvation, which the Lord Jesus began to proclaim, was accompanied by demonstrations of signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus Himself ministered by the power of the Holy Spirit and manifested the gifts of the Spirit.

You Will Receive Power

The Lord Jesus promised that those who believed in Him would receive the power of the Holy Spirit. He said rivers of living water would flow out of their being, referring to the work of the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39). He said they would do the works He did and even greater works because He would go to the Father (John 14:12). One of the important things He did after He went to the Father was to send the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33). He said that He would baptize His followers in the Holy Spirit, so that they could have power from above to be His witnesses (Acts 1:5,8; Luke 24:49).

Pass It On

The Lord Jesus had instructed His first set of disciples to pass on to others, everything He had taught them (Matthew 28:18-20) which would include supernatural ministry (Matthew 10:7-8). We can be assured, therefore, that the twelve apostles and the first disciples taught, trained, and passed on to new disciples in the Early Church everything they had observed and personally done in working healings, deliverance, signs, wonders, and miracles.

The Early Church

Reading through the book of Acts, we see that the Early Church, starting from the day of Pentecost and onward, walked in the power of the Holy Spirit. They demonstrated and experienced the supernatural. It was not just the twelve apostles, but other disciples as well, who manifested signs, wonders, and miracles through their lives.

Apostles

Acts 4:33
And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Stephen, a helper in the church at Jerusalem

Acts 6:8
And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

Philip, a Helper in the Church at Jerusalem

Acts 8:5-8
5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.
6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.
7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.
8 And there was great joy in that city.

Un-named Disciples

Acts 8:3-4
3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.
4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

Acts 11:19-21
19 Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.
20 But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus.

21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

For the first thirty years or longer, the Early Church had only the Old Testament Scriptures and the Gospels (as we know it) in oral form taught to them by the apostles who walked with Jesus. Slowly the Gospels and epistles were written and handed to various churches. They did not have all the resources, training, and tools we have available today. And yet supernatural ministry was normal—every believer seemed to be able to move in the power of God.

The Believer Today

Everything the Lord Jesus spoke about believers was for all believers across the Church age. He did not specify any expiration date on His promises!

The promise of the power of the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses is for us today (Acts 1:8; Acts 2:38-39).

The promise that those who believe in Him would do the works He did and greater works, still holds good today (John 14:12).

The signs that were to follow those who believe in Him—casting out devils, speaking with new tongues, protection from venomous bites, immunity from accidental consumption of deadly substances, laying hands on the sick to heal them—are all still valid and happening today (Mark 16:17-18).

The supernatural manifestations of the Spirit (the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11) are still in the Church today.

The instruction for any sick person to call for elders to have them pray over them, anointing them in the name of the Lord, for healing, is still in the Church today (James 5:14-15).

We do not find any indication of Jesus or any of the apostles stating that these supernatural works have been withdrawn. So, the believer today, can expect to receive and to manifest supernatural works in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

When That Which Is Perfect Has Come

A passage that is sometimes used to support the notion of an expiration date for the supernatural is found in 1 Corinthians 13. Let's take a look at this:

1 Corinthians 13:9-13
9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.
10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.
13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

In 1 Corinthians 13:9, Paul lets us know that we only prophesy "in part." God does not reveal everything to us. We only prophesy the piece, or portion of information that God reveals. This is also true of all revelatory gifts and the function of all the gifts of the Spirit. Each gift or manifestation of the Spirit is only an expression of a piece or portion of our infinite God and all that He is.

Then in 1 Corinthians 13:10, Paul lets us know that what is in part, that is the gifts of the Spirit, will be done away with when *"that which is perfect"* has come. Some have used "*that which is perfect*" to refer to the Bible, the complete Scriptures. The Scriptures are perfect in that the Scriptures (the Bible) is the inerrant, inspired Word of God. However, in 1 Corinthians 13, Paul clearly indicates what he is referring to. "*That which is perfect*" in 1 Corinthians 13:10 is explained to us in 1 Corinthians 13:12 as us seeing Him "*face to face*" and knowing even as we are known. The Apostle John also writes: *"...we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is"* (1 John 3:2). Hence *"that which is perfect"* therefore cannot refer to the compilation of the Bible but refers to us seeing Him face to face.

Consider this: **even the Word, who became flesh, the Lord Jesus Christ, ministered under the anointing of the Spirit during His earthly ministry** (Luke 4:17-18; Acts 10:38). Then how much more should we be dependent on the anointing and supernatural manifestations of the Spirit, even as we minister the written Scriptures.

The Apostle Paul knew the Old Testament Scriptures. He also had the revelation which he wrote down for us in his epistles, and yet when he himself ministered, he was completely dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:4-5).

So, the Word does not do away with the work of the Spirit. Rather the Word and Spirit work together to bear witness to Jesus Christ as the Son of God. *"For there are three that bear witness in heaven: The Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one"* (1 John 5:7).

The Genuine Versus The Counterfeit

Another common objection raised by some toward supernatural expressions, especially the manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit, is that there are counterfeit expressions, "The devil also does these things." Their argument is that since the devil also does such supernatural things, we should not engage in genuine manifestations of the Spirit.

The Bible does talk about satan working lying or deceptive signs and wonders.

2 Thessalonians 2:9
The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

2 Corinthians 11:13-15
13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.
14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.
15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Just as believers can tap into the power of the Kingdom of God and the anointing of the Holy Spirit to see miracles happen, in a similar manner, people can tap into demon power to work deceptive signs and wonders. However, this is no reason why we should stop working signs and wonders. In fact, this should stir us up to press into see more of God's power in demonstration.

Counterfeit Currency

Let us look at this objectively using what happens in our daily lives. The reason people make counterfeits is because the genuine has value. For instance, think about counterfeit currency, something that is quite rampant in our part of the world. People engage in making counterfeit currency, because the genuine has value. The counterfeit is made to look as close to the genuine as possible, lest it be detected easily. In fact, the higher the value, the more efforts are put in to make the counterfeit look exactly like the genuine. The counterfeit does not discredit the authentic; it only serves to accentuate the value of the authentic. Just because there is counterfeit currency, we do not throw away all our genuine currency! We preserve the genuine and we keep an eye out for the counterfeit and avoid them. In fact, those producing the counterfeit notes are exposed and taken to task. In a similar manner, we must not do away with the genuine work of God that demonstrates the supernatural, just because there are counterfeits produced by the powers of darkness. The best way to identify the counterfeit is to be fully immersed in the genuine. Once we know what the genuine looks like in detail, we can easily identify the counterfeit. The ones who get cheated are the ones who do not know in detail what the genuine looks like.

Throughout the Bible we see that God's servants, the prophets, had to demonstrate the genuine power of God, in environments where there were others doing similar signs and wonders by the strength of demonic powers. God did not tell His servants to stop working supernatural signs and wonders just because of witchcraft powers working similar things. Rather, God demonstrated time and again that His power working through His servants was far greater than the works of darkness.

Moses and the Magicians in Egypt

Moses, having been raised up in Pharaoh's courts, must have been familiar with the powers that the sorcerers and magicians of Egypt demonstrated. When God commissioned Moses to go before Pharaoh, the Lord prepared Moses to demonstrate the supernatural with the rod he carried.

Exodus 7:8-12
8 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,
9 "When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Show a miracle for yourselves,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and cast it before Pharaoh, and let it become a serpent.' "
10 So Moses and Aaron went into Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the LORD commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent.
11 But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.
12 For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

The very first miracle that Moses did, the magicians in Egypt were able to replicate with their demonic powers. While Moses was perhaps not ready for this, God was not taken by surprise. God already had a plan to demonstrate that the power with Moses was superior to the powers that the magicians operated by. Moses' rod swallowed up the other rods.

The magicians in Egypt were able to do the next two miracles that Moses did—the river turning into blood (Exodus 7:22) and causing frogs to come up from the river and cover the land (Exodus 8:7). Notice, that God was not alarmed that the magicians were also doing the same miracles. God did not tell Moses to change his strategy or try out some other method or technique. God just led Moses on to the next miracle. The magicians were able to copy the first three miracles that Moses did, but that was the extent of what they could do with their demonic power supply. Beyond this they became mere spectators and had to acknowledge the hand of God upon Moses. The power of God was far superior to the workings of satan.

Exodus 8:18-19
18 Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast.
19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said.

Here is a lesson for us. We do not stop working healings, deliverances, signs and wonders in the name of Jesus, just because there are counterfeit works being done. We need to show the world that the power of God is far superior to the powers of darkness.

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Elijah lived at a time when the prophets of Baal and the prophets of Asherah were being

supported by King Ahab and his wife Jezebel. The land was filled with idolatry and witchcraft promoted by Queen Jezebel. Elijah, led by the Lord, challenged these prophets on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18). At the end of the day, in response to Elijah's simple prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice and altar. This was something the false prophets were unable to do. The people now bowed and acknowledged that the Lord is God indeed!

1 Kings 18:37-39
37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."
38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.
39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

We are indeed living in a time when God is pouring out His Holy Spirit on the Church. While it is true that there are many false Christs, false prophets, and demonic teachings flooding the land, it is also true that the need to demonstrate the power of God has never been greater. People need to see the Lord and His glory manifested, so that they know beyond a doubt that the Lord Jesus whom we preach is God indeed!

The Ministry of Jesus

Even Jesus was falsely accused of doing His works by the power of Beelzebub, the ruler of demons. This indicates to us that even during Jesus' time, sorcerers, magicians, and practitioners of witchcraft were in the land and performed healings and miracles. However, the Lord Jesus did not change His ministry strategy and abandon working miracles, signs, and wonders. He kept demonstrating the power of God stating that Him casting out demons indicated that the power of the Spirit was superior to the power of satan. He pointed to the supernatural works He did as evidence of Him being the Messiah.

Matthew 12:24-29
24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."
25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.
26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?
27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.
28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.
29 Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

Several Other Instances

As we review the book of Acts, we see several instances where the ministers of the Lord

Jesus had to counter people who performed supernatural works by the power of satan:

- Philip and Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:5-24).
- Paul and Elymas the sorcerer on the island of Paphos (Acts 13:6-12).
- Paul and the girl possessed with a spirit of divination at Philippi (Acts 16:12-18).
- Paul at Ephesus (Acts 19:11-21).

In all these situations, the servants of the Lord Jesus demonstrated that the power of Jesus Christ is far greater than the power of satan. We must do the same today. Our God is greater! His power is greater than the powers of darkness.

What If I Do Not Believe?

Mark 16:17-18
17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;
18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

John 14:12
Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

At times, we hear some believers say that they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, believe in the Person and work of the Holy Spirit, and they also believe the Bible—BUT they do not believe that signs, wonders, and the gifts of the Spirit are for us today. Sometimes they would even say, "We do not believe these things like the way you do." Well, that is fine. We respect each one's position and we do not force and coerce anyone into believing in the gifts of the Spirit or the miraculous. We also understand that the works of Jesus included teaching, preaching as well as healings, miracles, signs, and wonders. So, if someone does not want to engage in the supernatural aspect, this would be entirely their choice. The Scripture tells us that each one should be fully persuaded in his own mind. The signs follow those who believe, and if you do not believe, the signs will not follow you. If you do not believe, then you will not be doing the works of Jesus and greater works in healings, miracles, signs, and wonders. As believers in Jesus Christ, we can still love one another even if we do not agree necessarily on the supernatural works of the Spirit. This book is written, of course, for those who are eager for more of the work of the Spirit in relation to manifesting the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Come On Deeper!

Ezekiel 47:1-9
1 Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar.

2 He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side.
3 And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles.
4 Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist.
5 Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed.
6 He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river.
7 When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other.
8 Then he said to me: "This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed.
9 And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.

Ezekiel 47 points to the Millennial Temple and a river flowing out of this temple. We also see in Revelation Chapters 21-22, in the New Jerusalem, *"a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb"* (Revelation 22:1). We also know that in the present time, the believer is the temple of God, individually, and believers collectively are also called the dwelling place (or temple) of God. And out of the believer flow rivers of living water (John 7:37-39) which is the presence and power of the Holy Spirit released through the believer. So, there is a parallel here, between now, what is coming up in the Millennium, and beyond in the New Jerusalem.

Ezekiel, in his vision was invited to move from ankle deep, to knee deep, to waist deep, and on to further depths where he had to swim in the river. When we are ankle deep, knee deep, or even waist deep in the river, we are still in control with our feet firmly planted on the ground (riverbed). Only when we go deeper do we abandon ourselves to the river and the river is then carrying us. Yes, we do still do our part when we swim, but it is the river that bears us along. We use this to indicate that God wants us to go deeper into the move of the Spirit, come into a place where we let go and let the Spirit of God bear us forward into deeper realms.

None of us have explored all the depths and realms of the Holy Spirit. We are all learning more and more each day, as we let Him take us into higher realms. As we learn, gain insights, and experience more of His ways and workings, we share, we learn from each other, and keep pressing in.

Nothing Is Impossible With God

Jeremiah 32:17,27
17 'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.
27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?

One of the truths we must embrace wholeheartedly is that there is nothing impossible with God. God can do anything. God can and will work in ways that we have not seen before. His past miracles and mighty works were never given to set a limit on what He can do. He can "out do" anything He has done in the past. Therefore, in the operation and the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit, we must not put God "in a box." We must approach this subject with the understanding that God is God, and He will move as He pleases, even in fresh, new ways. We must approach this subject knowing that nothing is impossible with God. Through the manifestations of the Spirit, He can make impossibilities become possible. Let's lay aside all limitations we have placed on what God can do.

2. Introducing The Person Of The Holy Spirit

We believe in one God, in three Persons—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **The Holy Spirit is God, just as the Father, and the Son**. The Holy Spirit is not one-third God, but fully God. He fully represents the Godhead, just as God the Father and God the Son. All that the Father is, and all that the Son is, are revealed through the Person of the Holy Spirit. That is why the Holy Spirit is also referred to as the Spirit of Him, the Father (Romans 8:11), the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9), and the Spirit of His Son (Galatians 4:6), etc.

The Holy Spirit is a Person, in the same manner as God the Father and God the Son. The Holy Spirit is not a feeling, although some of the descriptors used in the Bible to describe His work may imply such manifestations. We read about the Spirit coming like wind that blows, as river that flows, as fire that burns, as a dove that alights, as oil that is smeared, as a hand that rests on you, and so on.

John 14:16-18
16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—
17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.
18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. The Holy Spirit is referred to as "He," indicating Him to be a Person.

The Holy Spirit is with you everywhere, always. He abides with you. He is with you in your home. He is with you as you relate to your spouse and children. He is with you at your school, college, or workplace. He is with you in the middle of difficult situations. He is with you as you minister to people. He is with you every moment of every day. The Holy Spirit can transform and empower you in all these situations!

The Holy Spirit being with us is the same as the Lord Jesus being with us.

Allos Parakletos

John 14:16
And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever

In Verse 16, the Greek word for "another Helper" is '*allos Parakletos*.'

Jesus used the word "another," Greek '*allos*' meaning "another of the same sort," not '*heteros*' as in being "different." What Jesus was to His disciples, the Holy Spirit would be to His disciples, in His absence.

Another Helper of the same kind. Another Person who will be the same kind of Helper to you, as Jesus was. The Holy Spirit would be with us and in us always. The Holy Spirit with and in us, would be the same as the Lord Jesus Himself being with us in person. The Lord Jesus used the Greek word *'Parakletos'* to refer to the Holy Spirit. The Amplified Bible brings out the sevenfold meaning of the word *'Parakletos'* as follows:

John 14:16 (Amplified Bible)
And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), to be with you forever—

We briefly elaborate on each of the sevenfold aspects of the word *'Parakletos,'* the Holy Spirit, describing who He is to us. Some definitions below have been adapted from Thayer's Greek definitions.

Parakletos—His Sevenfold Nature

Helper

A helper is someone summoned or called to one's side. As Helper, the Holy Spirit is our Partner—our Senior Partner. We are co-laborers with the Holy Spirit. We are in partnership. We work together in all that God has called us to do.

Acts 5:32
And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of grace (Zechariah 12:10; Hebrews 10:29). He imparts God's grace—supernatural empowering on what we do.

Learn to commune with the Holy Spirit and ask Him for His help.

Comforter

As Comforter, He brings encouragement, comfort, renewing, reviving, and healing into our lives. There are times when the Holy Spirit reminds us of what the Word says and the Word He speaks brings encouragement to us. It lifts our spirits up.

John 14:26
But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

There are times the Holy Spirit reveals to us God's overarching purposes as we go through life's situations, which are bigger and greater than what is seen in the natural. He speaks to us what God is saying in the now and what God is revealing to us about the future (John

16:13-15). This gives us quiet assurance and strong confidence during adversity or whatever situation we may be going through.

There are times when the Holy Spirit speaks to us through someone else or in a dream. We receive a prophetic word that brings edification, exhortation, and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3).

Advocate

The literal meaning is that of one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate. The advocate not only defends your case, but also ensures that you receive the benefits that are rightfully yours.

The New Testament presents a "judicial system" that seems to be in effect in the spiritual realm, with God the Father as the supreme Judge. The Lord Jesus in heaven stands as Advocate before the Father for the believer. Similarly, the Holy Spirit who is on earth, also represents the believer as Advocate, before the Father. The devil is called the "*accuser of the brethren*" (Revelation 12:10). The Lord Jesus is our Advocate with the Father when we sin (1 John 2:1-2, same Greek word '*Parakletos*'), declaring Himself as the once and for all, complete payment (propitiation) for all our sin. However, we must confess and receive what Christ has provided for us by faith (1 John 1:9).

The Holy Spirit is our Advocate with the Father, ensuring that we receive on earth all that the Lord Jesus has received from the Father for us (John 16:13-15). When we are engaged in spiritual conflict here on earth against the powers of darkness, who come to, "*steal, kill and destroy*," the Holy Spirit stands before the Father for what is rightfully ours (our covenant rights), gives us the guarantee in our hearts (2 Corinthians 1:20-22), and raises a standard against the enemy (Isaiah 59:19), thus enforcing and administering to us on earth our covenant rights, our privileges, our blessings, and our spiritual inheritance.

Intercessor

An intercessor is one who pleads another's cause with someone else, as a man would plead for a friend. Like Advocate, both the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit are involved in an intercessory role for the believer. The difference is that the intercessor pleads on behalf of the one who is weak and unable to do something for himself. The advocate defends and claims rights against an accuser.

The Lord Jesus is our High Priest before the Father (Hebrews 2:17; Hebrews 3:1; Hebrews 4:14; Hebrews 8:1; Hebrews 10:21). He is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us (Romans 8:34). He always lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25). This High Priestly intercession is for us to overcome sin, temptation, and weaknesses (Hebrews 2:17-18), and to

receive grace and mercy to help us in our time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16). So, on our part, we must draw near with confidence knowing we will be helped before the throne of grace.

Similarly, the Holy Spirit who is dwelling in our hearts, is our Intercessor. He is the Spirit of Supplication (Zechariah 12:10). As our Intercessor, the Holy Spirit:

- Helps us in our weaknesses (Romans 8:26).
- Helps us to make intercession when we do not know what to pray for (Romans 8:26).
- Helps us to make intercession according to the will of God (Romans 8:27).
- Helps us pray mysteries, things which our mind does not even know about (1 Corinthians 14:2).
- Helps us make all kinds of prayer and supplication with perseverance undergirding us in spiritual conflict (Ephesians 6:18).

So, on our part, we must join hands with the Holy Spirit in intercession. He lifts up the intercession through us, for ourselves and for others.

Counselor

As our Counselor, the Holy Spirit is our Advisor, our Guide, our Teacher, and the One who leads us into all truth (John 14:26; John 16:13-15). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Counsel (Isaiah 11:2). He is also the Spirit of wisdom, Spirit of knowledge, and Spirit of understanding (Isaiah 11:2). He knows all things. Hence, as our Counselor, His counsel is always perfect. He is the anointing within, that John writes about (1 John 2:20,26-27), so that the believer is kept from error.

Ask Him for His counsel. Learn to listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks His counsel to you.

Strengthener

In a general sense this word means a helper, aid, assistant. The Holy Spirit strengthens us by imparting to us what we lack and increasing us in strength and capacity.

We are strengthened with might by the Spirit in our inner person (Ephesians 3:16).

Through the strength He gives we overcome the flesh (Romans 8:13), we overcome fear (2 Timothy 1:7), and overcome the enemy (1 John 4:4).

He strengthens us to sacrifice and do the will of the Father. Even Jesus was empowered by the Eternal Spirit to offer Himself on the cross (Hebrews 9:14).

He empowers us and anoints us to do mighty works (Luke 24:49).

Standby

He stands with us and alongside us in and through everything. He gives us divine strength as we face challenges, persecutions, and hardships for the sake of the Kingdom. He will give us the words to speak when we are brought before authorities to testify for Jesus (Matthew 10:18-20).

The Spirit of God is here as our *Allos Parakletos*.We must welcome and receive all He has come to be to us.

Develop Your Relationship With The Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 13:14
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Communion Gr. *koinonia* = partnership, fellowship, participation, intercourse, benefaction, distribution, having things in common, etc.

Communion involves **friendship** (intimacy), **fellowship** (sharing things with one another), and **partnership** (working together).

We must grow in our communion with the Holy Spirit. His work in us and through us comes out of this intimate friendship we develop with Him. The Holy Spirit is a Person and so it is possible to nurture an ever increasing, ever deepening, growing relationship with Him.

Some insights on developing our relationship with the Holy Spirit:

- TALK to Him.
- ENJOY His presence. Love Him. Worship Him.
- GLORIFY Jesus—The Holy Spirit is here to glorify Jesus. When we go about glorifying Jesus, Hegets involved. Do not GRIEVE (cause grief, distress to) the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30). We grieve Him when we do things that are displeasing to Him.
- Do not QUENCH (that is "extinguish") the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19). We quench Him when we suppress or ignore His promptings, or we do not move as He wants us to move and so we prevent Him from having His way. Usually, we quench the Spirit when we are fearful to step out with Him.
- Do not RESIST the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51). To resist means to oppose, be against, or fight against what the Holy Spirit is saying, doing, or moving us to do.
- Be SENSITIVE to Him. Respond to Him when He moves on you.
- Keep your THOUGHTS pure. Dreams and visions are part of the language of the Holy Spirit. This is an important way in which the Holy Spirit speaks.
- Walk in GENTLENESS (humility, meekness, calmness, politeness, love, holy boldness).

The Holy Spirit is gentle like a dove. He alights on those who walk in gentleness.

- Be OBEDIENT to Him. Obey His promptings and you will begin to receive more of His leading coming through to your life.

Indwelling Work And Empowering Work

There is the INDWELLING work of the Spirit and there is the EMPOWERING work of the Spirit. The indwelling work is His work IN us to help transform us to become more and more like Jesus. His empowering work is His work THROUGH us to glorify Jesus and to serve people around us.

The working of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is both an abiding presence and a flowing presence. He abides in you as your Comforter, Teacher, Counselor, Guide, Intercessor, etc. He flows out of you as your Empowerer, Co-worker, Strengthener, etc.

He abides in us as our Comforter, to comfort us and not to make us comfortable. Sometimes we incorrectly confuse feeling “nice and comfortable” in the flesh or emotions as an indicator of the presence of the Holy Spirit. This is not necessarily so. There will be times, when the Spirit of God moves you to do things that may be hard on the flesh or emotionally demanding, but He is surely with you as your Comforter and more.

3. Baptism In The Holy Spirit

The Latter-Day Outpouring Of The Spirit

The Church was birthed on the Day of Pentecost with the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as recorded for us in Acts 2. As seen in the book of Acts, the Early Church moved and ministered by the power of the Holy Spirit. All believers were filled and demonstrated the work of God's Spirit. New churches that were planted were birthed and nurtured in the power of the Holy Spirit as seen through the epistles. The Church was strong, vibrant, and powerful in the **first 400** years. However, after this, as seen in Church history, from **A.D. 400–A.D. 1400** the Church became a spiritually feeble entity during the Dark Ages. The work and the demonstrations of power were absent for the most part in the institutionalized church. Then began the revival and restoration of the Church. Briefly, we see in the **1500s**, the Protestant movement brought the revelation of salvation by grace through faith. Then in the **1600s**, the Puritan movement brought an understanding of the importance of water baptism and separation of Church from the state. In the **1700s**, the Holiness movement brought an understanding of sanctification of the Church being separated from the world. In the **1800s**, the Divine Healing movement brought a revelation and demonstration of God's healing power for the physical body. In the **1900s**, the Pentecostal movement brought a revelation of the Holy Spirit baptism and speaking in tongues. And then in the **2000s**, following the Pentecostal movement, there have been several clearly identifiable moves in the Church that have caused the Body of Christ to rise to higher realms in God. The five-fold ministry gifts of evangelist, teacher, pastor, prophet, and apostle have each been restored to the Body of Christ. We are now in that time in God's calendar where the saints are being equipped powerfully in the Word and in the Spirit and released into the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12). We are in a time when God's presence and glory are being released and manifested in ever increasing measures.

We are to contend for the faith that was delivered to the early New Testament saints (Jude 1:3). What they believed and walked in was called "*the present truth*" (2 Peter 1:12). The Lord isrestoring His Church to "*the present truth*," which is the complete understanding and experience of New Testament truth as seen in the Early Church.

"He Will Baptize You With The Holy Spirit And Fire"

When John the Baptist introduced the ministry of Jesus, he announced that the Lord Jesus would baptize people with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Matthew 3:11-12
11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Please note that the Greek word for "with" is *'en,'* a primary preposition which can be translated "in, by, with, of, for, etc." So, we use the terms "**baptism <u>with</u> the Holy Spirit**" and "**baptism <u>in</u> the Holy Spirit**" interchangeably.

John the Baptist announced that the Lord Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. The "fire" as John describes is to "*burn up the chaff.*" The chaff is used to represent what is ungodly (Psalm 1:4; Psalm 35:5), and what is of the flesh (Jeremiah 23:28). In the life of the believer, the fire burns up the chaff, burns up what is not of God, and what is ungodly. What John the Baptist points to also refers to the final, eternal judgment of the ungodly (Revelation 20:10,15). So "fire" has a dual reference, both to the cleansing work done in the life of the believer, and to the eternal judgment of the ungodly.

Now, about the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we know that during His earthly ministry the Lord Jesus ministered by the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14,18-19; Matthew 12:28; Acts 10:38). He also taught about the Holy Spirit and He promised to send the "*Promise of the Father*" to empower believers to do the same works that He did (John 14:12,26; John 15:26; John 16:7-13). Yet, during His earthly ministry, we do not see Him baptizing anyone with the Holy Spirit.

After His resurrection, He met with the disciples and breathed on them to receive the Holy Spirit.

John 20:21-22
21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."
22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

This was the time the disciples were born again. We say this because when God breathed, He imparted life, something of Himself into man (Genesis 2:7). So, in this case, they were born of the Spirit. Their spirits received life and they became new creation people.

Although the Lord Jesus had commissioned His disciples to go just as the Father had sent Him, and even though they were born again, the Lord Jesus instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for the baptism with the Holy Spirit to receive power from on high.

Luke 24:48-49
48 And you are witnesses of these things.
49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Acts 1:4-5,8
4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;
5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."
8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

He told them to wait in Jerusalem so they could be baptized in the Holy Spirit. The word "baptize" means to dip, immerse, submerge, and to overwhelm. It has the idea of being fully covered, surrounded, and drowned.

The purpose of the baptism with the Holy Spirit was to endue (clothe) believers with His power so that they could be witnesses for Jesus, to the ends of the earth.

Receiving The Gift Of The Holy Spirit

We review the **five recorded instances** in the book of Acts, of individuals or groups of people receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We understand there would have been many more, but these have been recorded specifically for our learning and instruction. Let's review what the Holy Spirit has recorded for us and draw insights from these.

The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-4
1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.
3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.
4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

When the 120 disciples were baptized in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, there were unusual happenings: a sound from heaven of a mighty wind blowing, tongues of fire coming on each of them, and all of them speaking in other tongues.

Notice a few other things here:

- When they were baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5), they were also filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4). They were both clothed and filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Notice that they spoke with other tongues, meaning it was their own voices coming through their own vocal organs. They did the speaking, not the Holy Spirit. Only the language was given to them by the Spirit.

It was harvest festival. The feast of Pentecost came 50 days after the feast of the firstfruits. Jerusalem was crowded with people who had come to celebrate these feasts. The crowd of people who heard what was happening in the upper room had different reactions. Some were completely confused. Some were amazed and marveled. Some were amazed and perplexed. Others mocked and said these disciples were drunk.

Acts 2:14-18
14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.
15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.
16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:
17 'and it shall come to pass in the last days, says god, that i will pour out of my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.
18 And on my menservants and on my maidservants i will pour out my spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.

The Apostle Peter under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit quotes from the Prophet Joel in the Old Testament (Joel 2:28-32) and explains that what was happening was a fulfillment of that prophecy.

As a side note, we observe that Joel foretold that the outpouring of the Spirit would be accompanied by **prophecy, dreams, and visions**. On the Day of Pentecost, none of these happened, instead there was **sound, fire, and tongues**. And yet, the Holy Spirit states through Peter, *"this is what was spoken"* (Acts 2:16) or this is that very same thing being fulfilled! The lesson here is that when the Holy Spirit moves, the manifestations may not always be the same. But it is still called the outpouring of the Spirit because it is the same Holy Spirit at work! Three thousand people were saved that day, after Peter preached the sermon. When we preach under the anointing, we can expect such a great harvest of souls! This can happen again and again and again!

Acts 2:38-39
38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

As part of his call to repentance, Peter informs the crowd that not only can they have their sins forgiven but they can *"receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* They can also receive what the 120 disciples had just received—as a gift. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is given to us as a gift. All we do is simply receive by faith. We cannot earn the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Another important truth Peter mentioned is that "*the promise*" or this message is for your children (across generations), to all who are far off (across nations), and to as many as the Lord our God will call (across people groups, across time).

Peter said that this promise is for as many as the Lord our God will call. Since God is calling people today, "*the promise*" of salvation and the gift of the Holy Spirit spoken of in Acts 2:38 is still for us today. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit or the baptism in the Holy Spirit is for all believers throughout the Church age.

Believers at Samaria

In Acts Chapter 8, the believers were scattered out of Jerusalem due to persecution into many neighboring villages, towns, and cities. Philip, who was serving at the church in Jerusalem, went to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. Many believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, including a man named Simon, who was a sorcerer and who had controlled many people through witchcraft. These new believers were baptized in water.

Acts 8:12-19
12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.
13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.
14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,
15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.
16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money,
19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

It is interesting to note what the apostles in Jerusalem did when they heard that the people in Samaria had believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter and John came down specifically to pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit.

It seems safe to infer that **this became "normal practice" in the Early Church, to pray for new believers to receive the Holy Spirit** (the baptism in the Holy Spirit). We can also infer that something supernatural happened when the apostles prayed for these new believers at Samaria, because Simon who had been involved in the dark side of the supernatural, now offered them money to buy that same power. Although it is not stated in the Scripture text, based on what took place in the earlier recorded instance on the Day of Pentecost, we are safe to infer that the believers in Samaria also started to speak in other tongues when they received the gift of the Holy Spirit. This was the supernatural phenomena that startled Simon, a former sorcerer.

Saul Who Became the Apostle Paul

Our next recorded instance in Acts, of someone being prayed for to receive the Holy Spirit

is that of Saul, who later became the great Apostle Paul. Saul had a powerful encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ on his way to Damascus. He was blinded, and for three days he remained that way, fasting, praying, and waiting on the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus instructed a disciple named Ananias to go pray for Saul, so that he would receive his sight.

Acts 9:10-18
10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."
11 So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.
12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."
13 Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem.
14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."
15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.
16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."
17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

Ananias, after some initial reluctance, went and prayed for Saul to not only receive his sight, but to also be filled with the Holy Spirit. Saul was a believer in Jesus Christ, three-days old in the Lord. He had a great call on his life, as we can see, from what the Lord Jesus told Ananias. And yet, he was prayed over to receive the Holy Spirit.

Once again this adds to our understanding that in the Early Church, it was normal to pray for new believers to receive the Holy Spirit.

While no specific mention is made in Acts 9 about Saul speaking in tongues or manifesting any supernatural phenomena, we know that Saul (later Paul) prayed in tongues a lot. He wrote to the Corinthians: "*I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all*" (1 Corinthians 14:18). We also know that Paul manifested all the gifts of the Spirit and taught other believers about these, because he is the one who wrote 1 Corinthians Chapters 12-14.

Cornelius and His Household

The fourth recorded instance of someone being baptized in the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts is that of Cornelius and his household. The Apostle Peter had been divinely instructed to go to meet Cornelius, where he preached about Jesus Christ. This was the first time the Gospel was preached to the Gentiles.

Acts 10:44-48
44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.
45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.
46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,
47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"
48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

As Peter preached Christ to these people, they believed the message, and God immediately poured out His Spirit upon them. These people spoke in tongues and magnified God.

Acts 11:15-18
15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.
16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'
17 If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"
18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

Once back in Jerusalem, Peter recapped the happenings at Cornelius' home, and he clearly stated that this was the same as the baptism of the Holy Spirit the 120 disciples received on the Day of Pentecost.

Hence, we have another instance where after people believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit as on the Day of Pentecost. Here again they spoke with tongues and magnified God when baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Believers at Ephesus

The last recorded instance of people being baptized in the Holy Spirit is in Acts 19, at Ephesus. Here the Apostle Paul met some people who had been baptized in water by John the Baptist. These people were not aware of what had happened since the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Acts 19:1-7
1 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples
2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."
3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism."
4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."
5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues

and prophesied.
7 Now the men were about twelve in all.

It is interesting to consider Paul's opening question: *"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"* It once again indicates that it was normal to expect new believers, once they believed in Jesus Christ, to be prayed for to receive the Holy Spirit, just the way Paul did in Acts 19 for these people. Paul preached to them about Jesus Christ, baptized them in water, and then proceeded to pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit, that is, to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Once again, as before, we observe that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit or the baptism in the Holy Spirit is accompanied by supernatural manifestations—praying in other tongues, and in this case, they also prophesied.

Summary Of The Five Recorded Instances

In three out of the five recorded instances, the people who were baptized in the Holy Spirit spoke in tongues. In the other two instances, in Samaria, we infer that something supernatural happened, and then in the case of Saul (later Paul), we know he did speak with tongues. So, it is safe to state that in all five recorded instances something supernatural happened, and that in four out of the five we can state that they spoke in tongues, when baptized in the Holy Spirit.

In three of the five cases they were baptized in the Holy Spirit and later baptized in water. In two out of the five, that is at Samaria and at Ephesus, they were baptized in water and then later baptized in the Holy Spirit. So, it is safe to state that God will work either way, and there are no "set" steps in this process.

The purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is to receive power to be a witness. The receiving of power is expressed through supernatural manifestations, that of speaking in tongues which we know is a gift of the Spirit or a manifestation of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). So, we make some deductions here:

- When we are baptized with the Holy Spirit, we receive both power and gifts. The Spirit of God endues or clothes the believer with power and makes all nine gifts potentially available to the believer from this point on. Keep in mind that these are gifts of the Spirit not gifts belonging to an individual. So, the Holy Spirit owns these gifts and works them through the believer. The believer must learn to work in cooperation with the Holy Spirit to properly manifest these gifts.
- The power we receive is expressed through a display of the gifts of the Holy Spirit resulting in signs, wonders, miracles, healings, and the supernatural work of God. The first gift that is most seen is speaking in tongues. God does things on purpose. Hence, we infer that this gift of speaking in unknown tongues is a key that helps us flow in all the other gifts of the Spirit.

Indwelling And Baptism—What's The Difference?

When one believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, one is born again. We are born of the Spirit. As Galatians 4:6 states *"And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"* We are already a temple of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of God indwells (dwells within) us. So, then why does a believer need to be prayed for to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Some present their argument like this: "The Holy Spirit does not come in parts because He is a Person. So, if you have Him, you have all of Him."

While there are similarities between the spiritual and natural, there are also differences. Spiritual things are often different from the way we see things in the natural. In the natural realm it is true that when you see a person physically, you see the person entirely. It is not that the person has left a part of himself physically at some other place. However, there is a huge difference when we consider the Person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a Person, but unlike us, He is infinite. **He can come and keep on coming because He is infinite**. We can have "more" of Him because He is infinite and there is no end to how much we can experience of Him in our lives.

In Scripture, we see that there are different measures of the Holy Spirit. We see the Spirit on Moses being distributed to 70 other elders (Numbers 11:16-30). We see Joshua having a part of what Moses carried—the Spirit of wisdom (Deuteronomy 34:9). We see a double measure of the Spirit resting on Elisha, after Elijah had been taken up into heaven (2 Kings 2:9-10). John the Baptist declared that the Spirit was without measure on Jesus (John 3:34).

The difference between the indwelling work of the Spirit and the baptism of the Spirit, in the life of a believer can be understood by looking at these two references:

John 4:13-14
13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,
14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 7:37-39
37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."
39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

In John 4, the Lord Jesus spoke of a **fountain**, in John 7, He spoke of a **river**. The fountain is within the believer, the river flows out of the believer. The fountain within brings eternal life for the believer. The river flowing out of the believer is the presence and power of the Holy

Spirit made available to others through the believer. It is the same water (a symbol of the Holy Spirit), but **different measures** and **different purposes**. Hence it is the same Spirit at work, but there is a difference in measure and purpose.

What About 1 Corinthians 12:13?

1 Corinthians 12:13
For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Sometimes people use 1 Corinthians 12:13 to state that we have all been baptized in the Holy Spirit. There is **one baptism** that saves (Ephesians 4:5), but **many baptisms** which the believer must be taught about and which the believer experiences (Hebrews 6:2).

The one baptism which saves, is the **baptism into one body**, referred to in 1 Corinthians 12:13. **We are baptized by the Holy Spirit, into Christ's body**. This happens at salvation.

Then there is **water baptism**, where we are baptized in water. **We are baptized by another believer**, **in water**. The believer administers water baptism in the name of Jesus (by the authority of Jesus), in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). Water baptism is primarily a declaration of our choosing to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and our identification with His name. Water baptism happens any time after salvation.

There is also the **Holy Spirit baptism. We are baptized by Jesus, in the Holy Spirit** (Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5,8). This baptism is for power and purification. Holy Spirit baptism, which is the topic of this chapter, happens any time after salvation or could also happen at the time of salvation, as in the house of Cornelius in Acts 10. So, in these three baptisms (baptism into one Body, baptism in water, Holy Spirit baptism), we see the difference on **who does** the baptizing, **into what** we are baptized, and **the purpose** of the baptism. So, 1 Corinthians 12:13 refers to being baptized into the Body of Christ and is different from being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Why Tongues?

It is quite interesting to think that God would design a gift of the Spirit like speaking in unknown tongues, where we by the Spirit speak in tongues of men and of angels (1 Corinthians 13:1). And it is also interesting to consider that God would use this as the first gift being expressed through the believer upon receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Why would God do this? For many, "*speaking in other tongues*" sounds offensive to the rational mind.

But this is the very reason why we need to embrace speaking in other tongues. We trust God. We trust His wisdom. We trust Him beyond our own understanding. So, we simply

embrace the way in which He works and go with it. Manifesting all the other gifts requires similar faith and a willingness to step out of our own understanding, trusting Him. This is when His power is displayed through the gifts.

We will consider more about the gift of diversities of tongues in Chapter 7, in this book. You can take a quick look at some of the benefits of speaking in tongues, in that chapter. Also, for more information, please see the free APC book: "The Wonderful Benefits of Speaking in Tongues," available as a free download at apcwo.org/books.

Is Speaking In Tongues The Evidence Of Holy Spirit Baptism?

This has been a question that has been discussed intensely over many decades, perhaps over centuries.

Going by the five recorded instances in the book of Acts, the answer to this question is "Yes." People spoke in tongues when they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. This was normal and what was expected.

On the other hand, we know that there are nine gifts of the Spirit. So, a common question that is proposed is what if the Holy Spirit chooses to manifest any of the other gifts, other than speaking with tongues, when a believer is baptized with the Spirit. We remain completely open to this and understand that this is certainly possible.

Is it possible for a believer to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and manifest other gifts of the Spirit, without speaking in tongues? Certainly, yes.

However, since our goal is to see the believer activated and flowing in all nine gifts of the Spirit, we always encourage believers to desire and to expect to speak with other tongues, when they pray to receive Holy Spirit baptism. And sooner or later, they do start speaking in other tongues. And we do not stop there. We encourage them to earnestly desire to flow in all nine gifts of the Spirit.

We can encourage all believers to speak with other tongues because the Lord Jesus stated all believers would do so in Mark 16:17-18: *"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*

Some Other Questions

Do I Have to "Tarry" to Receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

No. We do not need to tarry. Yes, we must pray with faith and expectation. But we do not need to "tarry" several days. The only reason the first 120 disciples had to tarry in Jerusalem, was to wait for the Day of Pentecost, because God had determined to pour out His Spirit on that day. In subsequent instances, we see that people were prayed for and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit during the time of prayer.

Do I Need to Have Hands Laid on Me to Receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

Not necessarily. Remember it is the Lord Jesus who baptizes in the Holy Spirit. So, He can use someone else to pray with you or He can do this for you without anyone laying hands on you and praying with you. You can personally pray and receive by faith, without anyone praying for you to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost and at Cornelius' home, the Holy Spirit fell upon the people without anyone laying hands on them.

Do I Need to be Baptized in Water Before I Can Pray for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Not necessarily. As we have already seen in the case of Saul and in the house of Cornelius, people received the baptism of the Holy Spirit first, and later were baptized in water. In the case of the believers in Samaria and at Ephesus, they were baptized in water first, and then later baptized in the Spirit. So, God can work either way.

Does Tongues Always Have to Be Understood?

In Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost, we know that people heard the wonderful works of God being spoken in languages they were familiar with. This does not exclude the possibility that of the 120 believers who were baptized in the Holy Spirit that day, some of them could have spoken in other tongues that were not understood, which could have included earthly and heavenly languages. It is wrong to say that all 120 spoke only in the languages of the people present. What the Scriptures state is that the people present, each heard things in their language. Hence this would not exclude the possibility of other unknown languages being used when the 120 spoke with other tongues.

Acts 2:7-11
7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?
8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?
9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

The Scriptures do not conclusively state that in Acts 10 and Acts 19, when people were baptized in the Holy Spirit, all of them spoke in languages that were understood by those present. On the other hand, the Scriptures clearly teach that when we speak in tongues, we could speak in languages of humans and of angels (1 Corinthians 13:1). This would therefore definitely imply that we could speak in languages that no one would understand. Hence, the Apostle Paul states clearly that when we speak in tongues "*no one understands him.*"

1 Corinthians 13:1
Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

1 Corinthians 14:2
For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

We must understand that there are a variety of uses of speaking/ praying in tongues as seen in the Scripture. These include:

(A) **Tongues for personal prayer, intercession, and edification**: this is the most common use of speaking in tongues, where the believer speaks/prays in tongues resulting in the edification of the inner man, communicates directly with God, and intercedes for others (1 Corinthians 14:2,4; Romans 8:26-27).
(B) **Tongues for interpretation**: this is when in a gathering a believer is led to give a message in tongues followed by interpretation, so that all who are present can understand and be edified (1 Corinthians 14:5,13)
(C) **Tongues as a sign to the unbeliever**: this is where the believer is enabled by the Spirit to speak in a language understood by the unbelievers present, resulting in them hearing the truth about the Lord (1 Corinthians 14:22; Acts 2:7-11).

So, the answer to this question is, "No, tongues do not always have to be understood."

Did Jesus speak with other tongues?

We do not know. There is no place in the Scripture that states that Jesus spoke in tongues. Likewise, there is no place in the Scripture that states He did not speak in tongues. Hence, we do not know if the Lord Jesus exercised these two gifts of the Spirit—tongues and interpretation of tongues. We do know He manifested the other seven gifts of the Spirit, as the miraculous accompanied His preaching and teaching.

Hebrews 2:3-4
3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

Can the Devil Understand When We Speak in Tongues?

The Bible does not state explicitly whether satan and his demons understand our speaking in tongues. However, here is what we can infer. When we speak in tongues we speak in tongues of men and of angels according to 1 Corinthians 13:1. We know that satan and his demons understand the tongues of men because when we resist, rebuke, or cast out evil spirits, we speak words in our known languages and these evil spirits respond and obey. We also observe in Scripture that there is conflict between angels of light and satan and his demons (Daniel 10:13,20-21; Jude 1:9). The angels of light also rebuke satan and his demons using words in angel language (Jude 1:9). Hence, we infer that satan and his demons understand the tongues of men and of angels. This would therefore mean that they will understand what we speak in tongues. However, demons understanding what we speak in tongues should not bother us in anyway.

Instructions And Prayer To Receive The Baptism With The Holy Spirit

Receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a pure work of God. We cannot manufacture it or force people into this. What we can do is to teach people what the Word of God has to say, share some practical instructions, and then pray. God is always faithful to His Word and will baptize His people. He pours of His Spirit on those who are thirsty (Isaiah 44:3).

Jesus is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, So Look to Him

The Bible says that Jesus will baptize us in the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11). So, one does not need a pastor or a man of God, to get baptized in the Holy Spirit! We can just ask Jesus to baptize us—to pour out His Holy Spirit on us. As He pours out His Spirit, heavenly languages will come forth. This is what happened in the book of Acts—every time people received the gift of the Holy Spirit, something supernatural happened. They began to worship God in tongues.

You Are a Believer and You can Speak with Other Tongues

Remember as a believer you can speak with other tongues. The Lord Jesus said you can in Mark 16:17-18: "*And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*"

Take a Step of Faith

We receive the promise of the Spirit by faith. This is the gift of the Holy Spirit and simple faith is all that is needed for you to receive the promise.

Galatians 3:13-14
13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),
14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Reject All Fear

Don't have any fear that you will receive "some other" spirit. When you pray and ask the Lord Jesus to baptize you with the Holy Spirit, that is exactly what will happen. The Lord Jesus said in Luke 11:11-13: "*If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him*!"

Relax, You Are not Trying to Convince God to do Something!

You don't have to beg God, twist His hand, tarry for long hours, plead, cry, shed many tears to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. God is ready to fulfill His promise in your life. Just ask and receive by faith! All you must have is a sincere desire, as Jesus said in Mark 11:24: *"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."* In a few minutes from now, as you pray, believe that you receive what you ask at the moment of your asking.

The Holy Spirit Gives the Language, but YOU Must Speak

Acts 2:4
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

After you pray the prayer given below, open your mouth and speak out whatever comes. It will be your voice and your vocal organs at work. The Holy Spirit will not speak. You must do the speaking. He only provides the language.

A Language Is Made Up of Sounds

Remember speaking in a language simply involves making sounds. When these sounds are intelligible and follow a certain sequence, others get the meaning of what you are saying in

that language. In tongues, we speak in languages of men or of angels. So, the Holy Spirit gives the language (prompts or inspires the sounds) and you must express the sounds using your vocal organs. Since these sounds are in a language you have not learned, your mind will not understand these sounds. You may initially feel like you are making some strange sounds. These are words (sounds) in an unknown language. Go ahead and give voice to it. As you step out in faith, more words will begin to flow.

Only One Language at a Time

Remember you cannot speak two languages at the same time. So do not attempt to speak anything in your own known language(s). Don't try repeating "praise the Lord" or "hallelujah" very fast. There is no need to do so. These will hinder the flow of the language which the Spirit desires to release. Instead, having prayed the prayer, just take the step of faith, and speak in new tongues. Jesus said you would, so you can!

God Understands the Mind of the Spirit (in All Languages)

God who looks into your heart, understands what the Holy Spirit is releasing through you.

Romans 8:27
Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Don't worry about the fact that you do not understand what you are speaking. The Apostle Paul did tell us that when we pray in the Spirit, our spirit is praying enabled by the Holy Spirit, and our understanding is not put to work: "*For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful*" (1 Corinthians 14:14). God understands what the Holy Spirit is releasing through you and this is all that matters.

PRAYER

Here is a simple prayer to help you ask and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Then step out in faith and speak in the languages the Holy Spirit gives you.

Dear Lord Jesus, I am a believer. I ask you to baptize me with the Holy Spirit so that I can receive power to be a witness for you. Heavenly Father, I ask in Jesus' name, please pour out your Spirit on me as you promised you would do in the last days. By faith I now receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit with all the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is now upon me and all His gifts are resident with Him, in me. Thank you, Lord Jesus! Because I am a believer, I now speak with new tongues as the Spirit gives me the ability. I expect the flow of all other gifts of the Spirit through my life. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Welcome Holy Spirit!

Once you have started speaking with tongues, continue praying in tongues often, if possible, every day. Try and spend extended hours praying in tongues. There are many wonderful

benefits of praying in tongues. For more information on the benefits of speaking/ praying in tongues, please see the free APC book: "The Wonderful Benefits of Speaking in Tongues," available as a free download at apcwo.org/books.

As you progress further in this book, you will learn more about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, so that you can learn how to yield to the Spirit to manifest all His gifts. You can serve and minister to people through these gifts. You will be a witness with power. Jesus Christ will be glorified!

Filled, Anointed, And Walking In The Spirit

There are different words or expressions we see in the New Testament in relation to the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. We will present concise comments on some of these to help maintain clarity on terminology that we may use. Please note that this is not a complete explanation of all such terms. We will have to leave that for another book.

The experience the 120 had in the upper room was referred to as the **baptism** in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5). We note that they were also **filled** with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4). Again, in Samaria, the apostles prayed for the Holy Spirit to "**fall upon**" the believers and they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:16-17). Similarly, we know that the people gathered in Cornelius' home as Peter preached were also **baptized** in the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:15-17). The Holy Spirit "**fell upon**" and was "**poured out**" upon them (Acts 10:44-45). So, when believers are <u>baptized</u> in the Holy Spirit, at that time they are also <u>filled</u> with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit <u>falls upon</u> them, and is <u>poured out</u> upon them. All these expressions are valid when referring to what happens when a believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit.

One Baptism, Many Fillings

What we notice through the book of Acts is that the same believers who were baptized in the Holy Spirit are reported as being repeatedly **filled with** the Spirit or as being **full of** the Holy Spirit:

Acts 4:8
Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:

Acts 4:31
And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Acts 6:3
Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

Acts 6:5
And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,

Acts 7:55
But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,

Acts 11:24
For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Acts 13:9
Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

Acts 13:52
And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul writing in his epistles to Spirit-baptized (or Spirit-filled) believers instructs them to be filled with the Spirit, to walk in the Spirit and to live in the Spirit:

Ephesians 5:18-21
18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,
19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Galatians 5:16,22-25
16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

When we are **baptized** in the Holy Spirit, we are **filled** and **anointed** at that moment. Being filled with the Spirit speaks of the work of the Holy Spirit within the believer affecting how we live. It has to do with our walk, our conduct. Being anointed has to do with the work of the Holy Spirit empowering us for ministry, affecting our work. So, the baptism in the Holy Spirit results in a filling and anointing. To be baptized is to be filled and to be anointed, and yet we see that both these are to be kept "active" in a sense.

Filled and Walking and Living in the Spirit

As we see from the Scriptures given above, although we are filled when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, we need to stay filled or stay full of the Spirit. We need to be filled continuously, again and again and again! This is because of the constant conflict between

the flesh and the Spirit (Galatians 5:17). If I let the flesh take the upper hand, then I am "less full" of the Spirit, that is, the Spirit's influence over me has waned or diminished to that extent. But if I stay full of the Spirit, the flesh is kept under subjection. When we live filled with the Spirit, we are doing what the Apostle Paul says when he teaches us to "*walk in the Spirit*" (Galatians 5:16) or "*live in the Spirit*" (Galatians 5:25). The person filled with the Spirit will also walk in wisdom, faith, thankfulness, singing to the Lord, walking in submission, **manifesting the fruit of the Spirit** (Galatians 5:22-23), and overcoming the sinful desires of the flesh (Galatians 5:16,24). To be filled with the Spirit, we need to keep our hearts clean and free. Confess sin and receive His cleansing immediately according to 1 John 1:7,9. Release forgiveness as soon as you feel offended. Invite the Spirit of God to fill you. Yield all of yourself to Him. Welcome Him. Stay in communion with Him. This helps us stay "actively" filled with the Spirit, live in the Spirit, and walk in the Spirit.

Anointed

When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, we are also anointed by the Spirit. To be anointed is to have the Spirit upon us empowering us to do what God wants done through us (Luke 4:17-19; Acts 10:38). We are anointed all the time (2 Corinthians 1:21) positionally in Christ. Yet, since we are not doing the works all the time, the anointing is not "active" all the time. Whenever the Holy Spirit moves upon us releasing His power to do the work, He wants us to do at that time (there is an anointing for everything God wants you to do), we say we are anointed (the anointing is "active"). The anointing is the power of the Spirit being manifested through a believer. There are times when the Holy Spirit initiates this. He moves on us and then we start doing the work. There are times we start the work, and the anointing begins to flow or operate. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are channels (or tools) through which the anointing (the power) of the Holy Spirit is manifested to minister to people. There are varying levels of anointing. There are times we can be "more anointed" than at other times. The degree of power that is manifested is in proportion to the anointing that is present and active at that moment.

We are to be filled with the Spirit continuously. Also, we are to move under the anointing every time we minister (do the work God has called us to do). Therefore, in this sense, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is both initiatory and repeatable. We are baptized in the Holy Spirit once, but filled and anointed over and over, countless times again and again.

The Anointing Upon and the Anointing Within

Note, we should not confuse the "anointing upon," and the "anointing within." The anointing upon is the Spirit upon us empowering us for ministry. The anointing within is the Spirit within us carrying out His indwelling work in us and transforming us into Christlikeness. Hence, 1 John 2:20,27, refers to the work of the Spirit **within** the believer (i.e., the anointing within).

1 John 2:20,27
20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.
27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

4. Concerning Spiritual Gifts

We take an introductory look at the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12, and we begin by understanding a little bit of the background of Paul's letter to the Corinthians.

During his second missionary journey (AD 49-AD 52), the Apostle Paul spent about 18 months at Corinth (Acts 18:11), which was a port city, served by two harbors and a booming commercial center, known as "the Ornament of Greece," with an estimated population of about 200,000 people. Corinth had the temple of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and was staffed with 1,000 male and female temple prostitutes. Corinth's reputation for immorality and pleasure was well known. Aquila and Priscilla were Jewish believers who had come to Corinth from Rome because of an edict issued by the Roman emperor Claudius, in AD 49, ordering all Jews to leave Rome (Acts 18:1-3). They worked with Paul making tents and ministering together at Corinth. Paul also received some support sent to him from Philippi (2 Corinthians 9:1-10; 2 Corinthians 11:6-10; Philippians 4:15-16). Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia and joined Paul, Aquila, Priscilla, and Luke at Corinth (Acts 18:5).

A thriving Spirit-filled church was established at Corinth in just 18 months. Paul had taught them many things including truths concerning the cross of Jesus Christ, partaking in the Lord's table, about the power of the Holy Spirit, and had got them all exercising the gifts of the Spirit and other truths.

At the end of these 18 months, Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla left Corinth, stopped briefly at Cenchrea, and then went from there to Ephesus (Acts 18:18-19). Paul left Aquila and Priscilla behind and went on to Jerusalem. Aquila and Priscilla met Apollos at Ephesus and taught him the things of the Lord Jesus. They later sent Apollos to Corinth recommending him to the believers there. Apollos was a great blessing to the believers at Corinth (Acts 18:24-28).

On his third missionary journey (AD 53-AD 58), the Apostle Paul spent about three years in Ephesus. During this time, some people from Corinth, including "*those of Chloe's household*" (1 Corinthians 1:11) visited Paul at Ephesus and gave him an update on the problems at the church at Corinth. "*Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus*" (1 Corinthians 16:17) could have been some of the people who may have come from Corinth. From Ephesus, Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to address the problems in the Corinthian church. Either the people who had come from Corinth or Titus could have carried this first epistle back to Corinth. Paul sent Titus to Corinth to see the affairs of the church there.

Problems at the Corinthian church addressed in Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians:

- Division, strife—people taking sides with Paul, Peter, Apollos (Chapters 1-4),
- Sexual immorality (Chapters 5-6),
- Internal conflicts (Chapter 6),
- Marriage (Chapter 7),
- Food offered to idols (Chapters 8,10).

Paul then addresses issues related to proper conduct in gatherings in Chapters 11-14:

- Head coverings (Chapter 11:1-16),
- Participating in the Lord's Supper (Chapter 11:17-34),
- Exercise of spiritual gifts (Chapters 12-14).

Paul then reaffirms truth concerning the Gospel and the resurrection (Chapter 15).

In closing, he requests collection for the saints (Chapter 16), which again would take place during their common gatherings.

So, 1 Corinthians Chapters 12-14, which address the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit, should be read and understood as instructions on how the gifts of the Spirit are exercised in the context of local church gatherings. This, however, does not imply that the gifts of the Spirit can only be manifested in local church gatherings, because the Holy Spirit is always present and can manifest Himself through the believer at anytime, anywhere as He wills.

The Corinthian Church Gatherings

It is quite interesting to assess the spiritual life of the Corinthian church as we see in Paul's epistles. While they had obvious problems, despite their flaws, they were experiencing a lot in terms of the work of the Spirit. Here are some highlights:

- Paul states that they were "*enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge*" (1 Corinthians 1:5) implying that they had the utterance gifts (tongues, interpretation of tongues, and prophecy) and revelation gifts (word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits) in abundant operation.
- Paul states "*you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (1 Corinthians 1:7), which means they had the gifts of the Spirit operating freely amongst them.
- Paul states that the power of the Lord was present in their meetings (1 Corinthians 5:5) implying they had demonstrations of God's power whenever they came together.
- The Corinthians were "*zealous for spiritual gifts*" (1 Corinthians 14:12). Imagine a local congregation where everyone was passionate about the gifts of the Spirit!
- Paul recognizes that they were very eager to speak in tongues and had to let them know that "*I speak with tongues more than you all*" (1 Corinthians 14:18).

- When they gathered, everyone came with something to serve and give through their spiritual gifts. Paul stated: "*Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification*" (1 Corinthians 14:26). Imagine such a church gathering where people came waiting for an opportunity to bless someone else!

In Just 18 Months!

How did the Corinthian church become such a spiritually vibrant church, having the gifts of the Spirit in such abundant operation, experiencing the power of God, and becoming a community so passionate about spiritual manifestations in just 18 months? We could point to two important factors that contributed to this:

Paul's Preaching and Apostolic Ministry that Displayed the Power of God

1 Corinthians 2:4-5
4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

2 Corinthians 12:12
Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

They saw the power of God being displayed. Paul preached and taught them about the work of the Spirit. The Corinthian believers, just brought out of idolatry and sinful lives, simply stepped into it, and began to operate in what they saw. Paul referred to what God had done amongst them as *"the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus"*(1Corinthians 1:4).If we desire to raise up such powerful Spirit-filled local church communities, this is how we must minister.

The Move of God's Spirit—a Season of Outpouring

The Corinthian church was planted sometime around AD 49-AD 52, which was about 20 years after the Day of Pentecost (if we consider Pentecost to have happened in about AD 30). This was a time of unusual outpouring of God's Spirit. The Apostle Paul was himself a carrier of this powerful move of God's Spirit.

Now let's examine our main Scripture text concerning the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11
1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:
2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.

3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.
4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.
7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:
8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,
9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,
10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:1
Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

The word "spiritual" (Greek '*pneumatikos*') means "non-carnal," "supernatural." So, we are talking about supernatural gifts. These are not gifts that are naturally acquired. For example, the gifts of healings are not that of a medical doctor. The gift of the word of wisdom is not that of having a lot of knowledge through earning a PhD degree. The gift of tongues is not the ability to learn and speak many languages. Paul is referring to supernatural gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit.

God wants us to know and understand these spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:2
You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.

Paul reminds the Corinthian believers about their background that they came out of a life of idol worship. The emphasis here is on "dumb" (meaning "voiceless"). These idols did not speak or express themselves. In contrast, we worship the living God who speaks, reveals, demonstrates, and expresses Himself through the gifts of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:3
Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit expresses Himself through people (believers). We know that the Holy Spirit is at work, because when a person speaks by the Holy Spirit, they will glorify and bless the Lord, and acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This is the first guideline in recognizing the expression of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:4
There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

The word "gifts" in Greek is '*charisma*' and means a "gift of grace." The word '*charis*' means "grace."

There are varieties or different gifts given by the same Spirit.

The Spirit gives a variety (many, varied, and different) of gifts of grace.

The gifts of the Spirit are given freely by and because of His grace. It is not based on works we have done. We do not earn the gifts of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:5
There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

The word "ministries" in Greek is '*diakonia*' meaning "services," "offices."

There are many, varied, diverse, and different ministries or offices given by the Lord Jesus.

Example: the ministry (service or office) of a teacher, pastor, deacon, apostle, prophet, intercessor, etc.

1 Corinthians 12:6
And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

The word "activities" in Greek is '*energema*' meaning "workings," "outward manifestations," "effects." In the New Testament, this word is always used with reference to supernatural working. There are many, varied, diverse, and different expressions of divine energy through a believer resulting in different activities or outward manifestations.

We can understand Verses 4-6 in two ways, both are correct: Same Spirit is the source of all these different gifts of grace. Same Lord Jesus gives people different ministries (services, offices). Same Father God works through people in a variety of activities (or expressions, outward manifestations). Or we can also look at these three verses as, same Spirit imparts a variety of gifts, empowers a variety of ministries, and causes a variety of activities or manifestations to take place through people.

Gifts, Ministries, Operations: Electrician, Plumber, Carpenter, Auto-mechanic

Consider an electrician, plumber, carpenter, and an auto-mechanic. These are different administrations (services or ministries). Each of them has a toolbox that has a screwdriver, a hammer, etc. We liken the toolbox to the gifts of the Holy Spirit we are currently studying. However, what each one accomplishes with the same tool (e.g., screwdriver) will vary. The carpenter uses the screwdriver to get screws into wood, the electrician may tighten electrical parts together with the screwdriver, and so on. These are the various operations,

activities, or expressions of divine power through the same gifts via these respective ministries. Hence the same gifts of the Spirit can be expressed in different ways through various ministries in the Body of Christ. But it is the same God who is the Source, who is being served and whose power is being manifested through all these ministries in the Body.

1 Corinthians 12:7
But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

The gifts of grace spoken of in Verse 4, are also referred to as the manifestation of the Spirit, meaning the making visible of the Spirit's presence and power. These are given to "each one," that is to every believer for the benefit of all. Every believer can have all the gifts of the Spirit (or manifestations of the Spirit) released through him or her.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10
8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,
9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,
10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

In a local church gathering, when believers meet for fellowship, the Spirit of God manifests Himself in different ways through each person present. There are nine gifts of the Spirit listed and we will examine each one in detail later.

1 Corinthians 12:11
But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

"But one and the same Spirit works all these things," implying that all the gifts of the Spirit are operated by the same Holy Spirit. Therefore, the gifts don't belong to the believer, but to the Holy Spirit. This also means that all nine of the gifts can be operated through a believer, because it is the Holy Spirit who has all nine and operates all nine through the believer.

"*Distributing to each one individually,"* implying that any (one or more or all) of these nine gifts can be released through each one, that is every believer at a given gathering.

"*As He wills,"* the Holy Spirit releases these gifts as He chooses. However, as Paul addresses later, we have our part to play to "desire" and know how to correctly express these gifts. So, the manifestations of the Spirit (the gifts of the Spirit) are a collaborative work. We work with the Holy Spirit to manifest the gifts. He wills, but we must also be willing, cooperating, desiring, have faith, and must properly release the gifts.

In 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Paul then addresses the individual role, place, and function that each believer has in the Body of Christ. Before we explain 1 Corinthians 12:28-30, let us

briefly understand the three categories of spiritual gifts we see in the New Testament.

Gifts Of The Spirit, Membership Gifts, And Ministry Gifts

In the New Testament, we see three categories of spiritual gifts:

CATEGORIES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS		
GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT **1 Corinthians 12:7-11**	**MEMBERSHIP GIFTS** **Romans 12:6-8**	**MINISTRY GIFTS** **Ephesians 4:11**
All nine gifts of the Spirit available to all believers. Every believer must desire to manifest the gifts of the Spirit.	1 Corinthians 12:12-27 Ephesians 4:7 1 Peter 4:10-11 Gifts of Christ given to each believer in relation to their role and function in the Body of Christ. Every believer has one or more membership gifts. Examples: Prophecy, ministry (service), teaching, exhortation (encouragement), giving, leadership, mercy (compassion), and many others (helps, administrations, tongues). Every believer must recognize, nurture, and exercise their specific membership gifts and functions.	Gifts of Christ given to specific individuals. Five ministry gifts: apostle, prophet, pastor, teacher, evangelist. These ministry gifts equip believers for the work of the ministry.
	1 Corinthians 12:28-30 In 1 Corinthians 12:28-30, the apostle Paul lists an assortment of Ministry gifts (apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, gifts of healings) and Membership gifts (helps, administrations, varieties of tongues), and hence clearly indicates that not all members have the same Ministry or Membership gifts.	

The above classification is primarily for instruction purposes. In practice, there is significant overlap of these gifts and hence these should not be compartmentalized in a very rigid manner. The **gifts of the Spirit** empower every believer in their **membership function** and those who have a **ministry function** as well. The gifts of the Spirit empower the believer to fulfill their role (or responsibility), carry out membership function, and to also operate in their office (for those appointed to an office). Hence, we cannot segregate these three categories too much and must understand that there is an overlap or significant interplay. For example, consider the "*gift of prophecy*" (1 Corinthians 12:10), the membership

gift/function of prophecy (Romans 12:6), and the ministry gift of prophet (Ephesians 4:11). Every believer can manifest the gift of prophecy bringing edification, exhortation, and comfort to others (1 Corinthians 14:1,3). Some believers have a membership gift/function of prophecy where they primarily, constantly, and consistently minister to others through prophecy. We could call them prophesying believers and may even say that they have a prophetic ministry. Some may be appointed to the ministry gift of prophet, which in addition to a prophetic ministry will also include other areas of influence in the Body of Christ (governmental authority, greater spheres of influence, declaring moves of God, etc.). The gift of prophecy is expressed both through the membership function and the ministry gift function.

So, What Does 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 Mean?

1 Corinthians 12:28-30
28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.
29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?
30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

1 Corinthians 12:28

- "*Has appointed"* meaning, to put in place for His own use.
- "*These*" in KJV "some," implying specific people, not everyone.
- "*First*" (Greek '*proton*') meaning first in time or place, or first in rank, influence, honor. God has put some people in these places (roles or functions) giving them their place, rank, influence, and honor.
- "*Helps*" referring to those who render any kind of aid, assistance, service, or help; helpers.
- "*Administrations*" in KJV "governments," meaning "to govern" or "rule" and is usually applied to the one steering a ship.

1 Corinthians 12:29-30

The Apostle Paul lists an assortment of Ministry gifts (apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, and gifts of healings) and Membership gifts (helps, administrations, and varieties of tongues), and hence clearly indicates that not all members have the same ministry or membership gifts.

Ministry gifts (apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, and gifts of healings). We see miracles and gifts of healings representative of the evangelist.

Membership gifts (helps, administrations, and varieties of tongues). The "varieties of

tongues" represents believers who have membership function that regularly expresses "varieties of tongues," e.g., intercessors, those who bring public messages in tongues.

Hence, the answer to each of the rhetorical questions in Verses 29-30 is "no," since Paul is addressing ministry gifts and membership function gifts, and not specifically the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Difference Between The Gifts Of The Spirit And Ministry Gifts

1. The gifts of the Spirit are given by the Spirit. Ministry gifts are given by the Lord Jesus.
2. The gifts of the Spirit are available for all believers. Ministry gifts are given to some.
3. The gifts of the Spirit are primarily directed toward the spiritual edification of God's people. Ministry gifts are directed toward equipping God's people for the work of the ministry.
4. The gifts of the Spirit usually minister to a local body. Ministry gifts may do this and in addition also minister to the Body in a larger context (nation, nations, etc.).

Do Ministry Gifts Of Apostle And Prophet Still Exist Today?

A common question that is asked is whether the ministry gifts of apostle and prophet still exist today. Most find no problem in accepting the ministry gifts of pastor, teacher, and evangelist, but hesitate to accept that the ministry gifts of apostle and prophet are still in operation today.

Consider the following that affirms the existence and functioning of the ministry gifts of apostle and prophet today:

Ephesians 4:11-13
11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
12 or the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

1 Corinthians 12:28
And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, ...

Ephesians 4:11 lists all five ministry gifts. If we accept three (evangelists, pastors, and teachers) we should accept the other two (apostle and prophet) as well.

All five of these ministry gifts were given for the equipping of the saints for ministry and will continue till we all come to the unity of the faith and to a mature man. Christ is coming back for a glorious Church. Since this process is still ongoing, we still need all five of the ministry gifts.

It is stated in 1 Corinthians 12:28 that God had appointed these ministry gifts in the Church. In no place in Scripture have these ministry gifts been withdrawn from the Church. Since the Church is still on the earth, we are right in stating that these appointments are still valid.

We understand that there are three different categories of apostles:

1. There are the twelve apostles of the Lamb (Acts 1:25-26; Revelation 21:14). This is a closed group of twelve men with specific criteria.
2. There are the founding apostles who were responsible for the foundation of the Church, receiving, and writing New Testament revelation (Ephesians 2:20). The Apostle Paul was in this category. This category is also a closed group, since no modern-day apostle can add to the revelation of Scripture.
3. And finally, there are the ministry gift apostles who still function today.

Having addressed these "side issues," let's get back to understanding the gifts of the Spirit.

Understanding The Gifts Of The Spirit

We now attempt to provide key truths concerning the gifts of the Spirit. Some of these may have been mentioned earlier, but we present them once again for a thorough review.

The Gifts of the Spirit Are Given to all Believers

The manifestations of the Spirit are given to each one (1 Corinthians 12:7). The Holy Spirit distributes His gifts to each one (1 Corinthians 12:11). All believers are to walk the more excellent way of love and desire the best gifts (1 Corinthians 12:31). All believers are to pursue love, desire spiritual gifts, and especially to prophesy (1 Corinthians 14:1). All believers are encouraged to desire earnestly to prophesy, and not be stopped from speaking with tongues (1 Corinthians 14:39).

Hence, it is important for all believers to be taught and equipped in learning how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and flow in the gifts of the Spirit.

The Gifts of the Spirit Are a Supernatural "Manifestation" of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:7
But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

An operation of the gift of the Spirit is the Holy Spirit expressing Himself, making His presence, and power visible. The Greek word for "manifestation" means "exhibition" and "expression." So, the gifts of the Spirit are means by which the Holy Spirit is revealing

Himself, exhibiting, and expressing His presence and power.

Many times, people want to "see" God or "encounter" God in real, personal, and life-changing ways. The gifts of the Spirit cause people to see God being manifested, exhibited, and expressed. People "see" God and "encounter" God in real personal ways when they are ministered to by the gifts of the Spirit.

The Gifts of the Spirit Are Gifts of Grace

1 Corinthians 12:4
There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

The Holy Spirit imparts these gifts (Greek '*charisma*') to each believer. The word '*charisma*' refers to gifts of grace or gifts given by grace. We, therefore, do not earn the gifts of the Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit are gifts of grace given freely and because of God's grace. These gifts are not a sign of great spiritual maturity or some badge of personal achievement that a believer wears around. Rather these are works of grace being expressed through the believer. So, all we do is make ourselves ready and available, and learn how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to manifest these gifts.

The Gifts of the Spirit Are Given to Edify People and Glorify Christ

1 Corinthians 12:7
But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1 Corinthians 14:12
Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.

The right motive we must always maintain in desiring and manifesting the gifts of the Spirit is to serve people and to glorify Christ. The gifts are given for the "*profit of all*" and "*for the edification of the church*." The gifts of the Spirit are not to make us look good or for any self-promotion. We must not seek to operate in the gifts out of competition with each other.

As we cooperate with the Holy Spirit to manifest the gifts, we must ensure that people are benefiting and being edified. Consider what the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:18-19, *"I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue."* We observe the Apostle Paul exercising restraint on his use of tongues, so that he could speak with understanding to build people up through teaching them.

The Apostle Paul instructs the congregation to do everything for the building up of people. He states in 1 Corinthians 14:26 "*How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together,*

each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification." In Romans 1:11-12, we see that believers can be established, strengthened, and made firm when there is a sharing or imparting of one or more spiritual gifts. "*For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift ('pneumatikos charisma'), so that you may be established—that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me*." The word "impart" in Greek is '*metadidomi*' meaning "to give a share of, impart," '*meta*' = with, '*didomi*' = give. The same word is used in Romans 12:8, Ephesians 4:28, and Luke 3:11, where it says that if a man has two coats let him give one to another who has none. So, where there is a sharing of spiritual gifts, both the giver and the recipient are strengthened and encouraged together.

We must remember that the Holy Spirit will always glorify Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus said in John 16:14, about the Holy Spirit, "*He will glorify Me*."

The Gifts of the Spirit Are Manifested as We Walk in Love, Desire the Gifts, and Step Out in Faith

As we look at Scripture, we find three essentials to manifesting the gifts of the Spirit. We must (i) Walk in love, (ii) Desire the gifts and (iii) Step out in faith. The believer is instructed to do these.

1 Corinthians 12:11
But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Sometimes people read the verse in 1 Corinthians 12:11 and leave everything to "*as He wills*" and excuse themselves completely. However, we must also look at all the other instructions concerning the gifts of the Spirit and walk in all the instructions. Yes, it is true that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are operated or worked by the Holy Spirit and they are released as He chooses. On the other hand, we must consider two things: First, the Holy Spirit is very willing because He desires to manifest Himself to bless lives and glorify Christ. The real issue is that the Holy Spirit is willing, but is the believer also willing? Many believers are unwilling because they have not been taught and trained in the Word of God concerning spiritual gifts. Second, there are instructions given to the believer on what to do to manifest the gifts of the Spirit. Our responsibility is to act on these instructions if we are going to see the manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:31
But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 14:1
Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

Walk in Love

Implicit in Scripture concerning the gifts of the Spirit is the instruction to walk the more excellent way of love and to pursue love. We must be motivated by love for people and our expression of the gifts of the Spirit to people must be undergirded by love. So, in manifesting the gifts of the Spirit we must do what love will do. More on this in a later chapter.

Desire the Gifts

Another important injunction in Scripture that goes hand in hand with walking in love, is to earnestly desire spiritual gifts. The same Greek word '*zeloo*' is translated "*earnestly desire*" in 1 Corinthians 12:31 and translated as "desire" in 1 Corinthians 14:1. According to Strong's Hebrew and Greek dictionaries, '*zeloo*' is to have warmth of feeling for or against, it means to covet earnestly, to have desire, to be moved with envy, to be jealous over, to be zealously affected.

According to Thayer's Greek definitions, '*zeloo*' is a verb, and it means to burn with zeal; to be heated or to boil with envy, hatred, anger; in a good sense, to be zealous in the pursuit of good; to desire earnestly, pursue; to desire one earnestly, to strive after, busy oneself about; to exert oneself for one (that he may not be torn from me); to be the object of the zeal of others, to be zealously sought after; to envy.

So, a believer's pursuit of spiritual gifts is not to be casual or cursory or even negligent. Rather all believers are to earnestly desire, to pursue with a burning zeal, a striving after, a continuous exertion toward and something they are busy about. In any situation, desire the gifts.

Step Out in Faith

Galatians 3:2,5,14
2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—
5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

God supplies the Spirit to us and works miracles among us in response to faith. We receive the work of the Spirit by faith.

Romans 12:6
Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

Faith is involved in the exercise of spiritual gifts and grace, and we do so in proportion to the faith we have. Our faith can grow (2 Thessalonians 1:3) and hence we are able to prophesy in greater measures and greater expressions, as our proportion of faith increases.

Galatians 5:6
For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

Faith works through love. And as we pursue love, we are positioning ourselves to exercise faith.

To sum up, as believers, we cannot be passive and expect the Holy Spirit to manifest His gifts independent of us. He wants us involved. We must walk in love, desire spiritual gifts, and step out in faith each time to see a manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit.

Our walking in love, our earnestly desiring, and our stepping out in faith, all work in conjunction with the Holy Spirit willing and working the gifts. The Holy Spirit is willing, are you? Are you ready to walk in love, desire the gifts, and step out in faith?

Every Believer Can Manifest all Nine Gifts of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:31
But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 14:1
Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

All believers are instructed to covet the best gifts and to desire spiritual gifts. Obviously, there are no restrictions here—both in the number of gifts or which of the gifts—implying that any believer can desire any of the nine gifts of the Spirit. Hence, we state that every believer can manifest all nine gifts of the Spirit.

The gifts of the Spirit belong to the Holy Spirit and so He can work, distribute, and operate these through any believer, who is willing to cooperate with Him in manifesting His gifts.

"For to one is given…" (1Corinthians12:8) must be understood as with respect to a particular instant in time, and not in terms of ability to manifest the gifts. 1 Corinthians Chapters 12-14, all flow together in thought. In a particular meeting, when believers are gathered (1 Corinthians 14:26), different gifts are distributed by the Spirit to different people. In a subsequent meeting the distribution may be different, that is, one who had words of knowledge in one meeting, may manifest gifts of healings in another.

The "Best Gifts" Are Gifts Needed for the Occasion and Suited to Meet Specific Needs that Are Present and to Glorify Jesus

1 Corinthians 12:31
But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

We are to desire the best gifts. The word "best" in Greek refers to "more useful, more serviceable, more advantageous, more excellent" (Thayer's Greek definitions). The "best gift" is the gift that is best suited for the situation and best suited to your function.

So, for example, if there is a person who is sick, needing healing, the best gift would be the gifts of healings, and in some situations, we would need a combination of gifts of healings, workings of miracles, gift of faith, and discerning of spirits to bring about healing and wholeness for a person. The gift of prophecy may encourage the sick person, but that really is not "the best gifts" to meet the need at that moment.

Hence, we are to earnestly desire the gifts of the Spirit that would be most useful to meet the needs of the people we are ministering to at each given instance.

Because Spiritual Things can Be Taught Believers can Be Taught and Trained in Learning how to Cooperate with the Holy Spirit to Release the Gifts of the Spirit

Sometimes people question if believers can be taught and trained concerning spiritual gifts, especially with material and training as presented in a book like this. They are of the opinion that all spiritual gifts are entirely a prerogative of the Holy Spirit and we cannot train people in such things.

However, consider several biblical and practical examples of training people in spiritual things:

Making Disciples Happens Through Spiritual Discipling or Spiritual Training

We can teach and lead people to experience spiritual things. The apostles were commissioned to teach people all things that Jesus taught them—this was not just an intellectual transmission of information—but a "disciple making" process, with the result of new disciples doing the same things as the apostles and being like the Master.

For example, we can lead people into receiving the gift of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:1-2). When we share the Gospel, we let people know that they can be saved now, by believing in Jesus Christ. And then we take a step further to lead them in what is often termed "the sinner's prayer" or "prayer of salvation." Then we gladly announce that they have been saved! We have just led a person into the greatest spiritual experience—that of the new

birth, by sharing the Gospel, helping them call on the name of the Lord, and express their faith in Jesus Christ. In fact, we go on to train others in evangelism and soul winning. We train them on how to share the Gospel and lead people into an experience of the new birth. So, if we can do this for salvation, we can surely teach people how to step into experiencing other spiritual things, such as how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to manifest His gifts.

We then teach people God's Word which will build them up and enable them to receive and walk in their spiritual inheritance (Acts 20:32).

Timothy Was Trained in Spiritual Things by Paul

1 Corinthians 16:10
And if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do.

1 Timothy 2:2
And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Timothy was a young man who was taught and trained by the Apostle Paul and brought to a place in ministry, where Paul could say of Timothy "*he does the work of the Lord, as I also do*." Later, the Apostle Paul instructed Timothy to pass on and commit (meaning deposit) in others what he had, so that they in turn could teach others. All of this has to do with spiritual things—not only doctrine but also the practice of ministry.

Paul's Exhortation to Stir up Spiritual Gifts

The more you exercise and flow in certain gifts, the easier it becomes to have more of those manifestations of the Spirit. Gifts need to be stirred up, otherwise, they diminish in their expression through neglect or fear. Gifts can be imparted, in the sense of being stirred up, activated, or enhanced as we associate, receive from, relate, and work with others who are further along in the exercise of those spiritual gifts and manifestations.

1 Timothy 4:14
Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

1 Timothy 1:6-7
6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Romans 1:11
For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established.

Paul Writing to the Corinthians

The Apostle Paul spent about eighteen months establishing the church at Corinth (Acts 18:11,18). As we have seen earlier,the Corinthian church had all the gifts of the Spirit in manifestation. Paul later writes to the Corinthian church instructing them on the proper use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12-14). So, in essence he is instructing (training, guiding, teaching) them on how to properly exercise the gifts of the Spirit. Believers today need instruction, training, and guidance on how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to manifest the gifts of the Spirit.

Schools of the Prophets in the Old Testament

What is interesting is that even in the Old Testament, there were the schools of the prophets where prophets were schooled in prophetic ministry. If this was possible under the Old Testament, then we should not rule out the possibility of training in spiritual things in the New Testament. God nurtured and raised Samuel up as a prophet (1 Samuel 3:1,7,19-21; 1 Samuel 4:1). Samuel then went about doing for others what he may have perceived as a need in his early days. Samuel set up what we refer to as the "schools of the prophets" where he trained other men in the prophetic. We see one of the early references to this, when Saul got back to the city of Gibeah, he met "*a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying" (1 Samuel 10:5). Later in 1 Samuel 19:20, we read about "the group of prophets prophesying and Samuel standing as leader over them*." From this company of prophets, we get the idea of the "schools of the prophets." It seems that men who were called to function in the prophetic ministry gathered around an established prophet to learn from him. During the time of Elijah and Elisha, this company of prophets were referred to as the "sons of the prophets." We read of the sons of the prophets (or schools of the prophets) located in different places like Gilgal which probably was the headquarters (2 Kings 2:1; 2 Kings 4:38), Bethel (2 Kings 2:3), and Jericho (2 Kings 2:5). The sons of the prophets at Gilgal lived with the prophet (2 Kings 6:1). These "trainees" performed the role of a servant and were also referred to as the servant of the prophet (2 Kings 9:1,4). We can infer that those who have been called into the prophetic ministry can be trained and equipped to operate in that ministry by a more seasoned prophet.

Several Gifts can Flow in Conjunction with one Another to Accomplish a Specific Work that God Wants Done

We must not become too rigid about the classification/ categorization of spiritual gifts. We'd like to refer to these as "gift packs," where multiple gifts flow together. For example, word of knowledge and gifts of healings often flow together, revealing a specific condition God is healing, along with the healing that happens.

Gifts Empower Membership Gifts and Ministry Gifts

Romans 12:4-8
4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,
5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;
7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;
8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

The nine gifts of the Spirit make up the believers' "toolbox." Regardless of what your membership gifts, role, and function are, you need the gifts of the Spirit. Similarly, if you are in the ministry gifts function, you still need the gifts of the Spirit to serve people effectively.

The Gifts of the Spirit Are no Indication of Spiritual Maturity

As we see in the Corinthian church, they were incredibly open to the work of the Spirit and had much of the manifestations of the Spirit. They did not lack in any spiritual gift. Yet the Apostle Paul calls them spiritual babies in Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:4-7
4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus,
5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge,
6 as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you,
7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Corinthians 3:1
And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

There is a difference between spiritual sensitivity and spiritual maturity. We can be spiritually sensitive and keen to the things of the Spirit. We are keen and responsive to the moving of the Holy Spirit and to manifest His gifts. This makes us zealous, passionate, and full of faith about the supernatural. Spiritual maturity has to do with our character, growth in spiritual understanding, and growing in Christlikeness. We need to develop in both.

However, the danger is that a believer could be very spiritually sensitive and yet be very spiritually immature. That is why we need each other to help one another grow in both areas.

The Gifts of the Spirit can be Manifested Anywhere, at any Time

The gifts of the Spirit can be manifested through the believer anywhere and at any time. So, we must always desire the gifts, ready to work with the Spirit of God. The gifts of the Spirit can be manifested in everyday life, in your home, in your school/college/ workplace, and

wherever you are ministering to people. Our goal in this teaching is to get believers trained and released to flow in the gifts of the Spirit, anytime, anywhere.

The Gifts of the Spirit can be Used to Minister to all Kinds of People

1 Corinthians 14:22-25
22 Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.
23 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?
24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all.
25 And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

God's Spirit can work through the believer and manifest Himself through these gifts to touch all kinds of people: believers, non-believers, atheists, agnostics, etc. So, we must not limit or hold ourselves back from reaching out to all kinds of people and desiring that the Holy Spirit will manifest Himself to them through the gifts.

Manifestations of the Spirit can be for a Specific Individual or it Could be Relevant to More Than One Person

For instance, there will be times when the Holy Spirit gives you a word of prophecy to be given to a specific individual. There will be times when a word of prophecy is for a group or for several individuals. Similarly, with all other gifts, the Holy Spirit may be ministering specifically to one individual and at other times touching many people simultaneously. Here again, we must flow with the Spirit of God, and not limit who He chooses to minister to or how He chooses to manifest Himself through us.

Collective Expectation and Desire can Increase the Manifestations of the Gifts of the Spirit in a Gathering

As we stated earlier, the Corinthian church were a group of people who were very zealous for spiritual gifts and came together to their local church gatherings with much excitement, so that they could bless one another with the gifts of the Spirit. And that is what they experienced.

1 Corinthians 14:12
Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.

1 Corinthians 14:26
How is it then, brethren? (meaning 'What, then, does this mean, brothers?') **Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things**

be done for edification.

What we can do as ministers to increase the expectation, desire, and faith of people in the gathering:

- **Share stories**: wherever and whenever possible share real-life stories. But always do so pointing people to the Lord and not drawing attention to any individual.
- **Preach/teach the Word**: continue to preach and teach the Word of God that builds faith in the hearts of people, revealing to them that God can work through them, and amongst them. Draw them away from being spectators and depending on the man or woman of God to do it all for them.
- **Demonstrate**: set the example. Manifest the power of God as the Spirit moves, and let people hear and see what the work of the Spirit is like. They will then have confidence in doing so themselves.

The Gifts of the Spirit must Be "Tested"

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21
19 Do not quench the Spirit.
20 Do not despise prophecies.
21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

Regarding the work of the Holy Spirit, we are not to quench His working, we are to welcome prophecies, and yet we must test these manifestations of the Spirit and take what is good. To "test" means to "discern, examine, approve, or allow." The word "good" refers to what is valuable, honest, and worthy. So, before we can take or receive prophecy or other revelatory manifestations (word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits), we must test them to see if they are truly from God and we hold on to what is good and lay aside what we discern is not from God.

Again, in Corinthians, the Apostle Paul provides a similar instruction concerning prophecies given in a gathering:

1 Corinthians 14:29
Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.

The word "judge" means to "discern, to separate thoroughly, to make a difference."

Why Test The Gifts? Why Could There Be Mistakes?

God is perfect. Holy Spirit is perfect. His gifts are perfect. But His gifts are being released through imperfect human vessels. So, it is possible for things from the soul to get mixed up with what is of the Spirit. It is possible for error to creep in when the individual is

communicating the revelation. Take for example the preaching of God's Word. Two people could take the same passage in the Word of God, and one could potentially interpret the Word incorrectly. The Word of God is perfect, but the person interpreting, and preaching could be in error. Hence, we are instructed to "*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" (2 Timothy 2:15).

Similarly, in the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit, the Scriptures instruct us to test the manifestations and take what is good.

Operating under law if there was any error the prophet was stoned to death. Operating under grace, the gifts must be tested, and what is erroneous must simply be discarded, and the believer can continue to learn and grow toward perfection. Therefore, it is also very important for us to be humble, be teachable, and be willing to receive correction as we grow in manifesting the gifts of the Spirit.

5. The Love Of God, Our Motivation

The More Excellent Way

1 Corinthians 12:31
But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13
1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.
2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.
4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;
5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;
6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.
9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.
10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.
11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.
13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 14:1
Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

After the Apostle Paul explains about the gifts of the Spirit and membership functions (leading, teaching, administration, and so on) in the Body in 1 Corinthians 12, he encourages us to desire these gifts, but states that he would like to point us to "*a more excellent way*" or a way that is even better or far superior. The implication here is that there is an even better way to minister to people and serve the Body of Christ—a way that is better than the gifts of the Spirit and exercising membership functions. He points us to walking in the God-kind of love for people.

Paul explains in the first part of 1 Corinthians 13 that if we exercise the gifts of the Spirit, membership functions, and do great charitable deeds even to the point of offering our bodies to be burned, without being motivated and guided by the God-kind of love—all this is empty,

is nothing, and has no benefit! This shows the importance of abiding in love when serving and ministering.

Whatever we do, we must be governed, guided, and motivated by the God-kind of love. Do it out of love and because of love for people. As Paul explains in Verses 4-8, if we are impatient, unkind, jealous, boastful, proud, behaving rudely, self-seeking, self- promoting, self-centered, irritable, angered, have evil thought or intent, promoting iniquity or untruth, then we are not being governed, guided, and motivated by love. The exercise of the gifts of the Spirit with improper motivation means nothing, is empty and brings no benefit.

The reason love is superior to the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit, ministry functions, charitable deeds, and to faith and hope is because love is enduring. There will come a time when the only thing that will still be in operation is love—all the others would be done away with, no longer in use. [Note: in Verse 8, in the context of prophecies ("*prophecies, they will fail*") and knowledge ("*knowledge, it will vanish away*") the same Greek word '*katargeoo*' is translated "*they will fail*" and "*it will vanish away*." The meaning is that these gifts will no longer be in use, reduced to inactivity.]

This is not to say that we should not exercise the gifts of the Spirit or our membership functions. Having got our priority right to walk in love, we then pursue the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit and membership functions as Paul sums things up in 1 Corinthians 14:1 "*Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.*"

Remember, faith works through love (Galatians 5:6). Without love, faith breaks down. We can go through the mechanics of exercising faith, but faith does not produce when there is no love. Maintain a heart of genuine love for people. The Holy Spirit is the One who floods our hearts with the love of God (Romans 5:5). So, yield to Him. Let the love of Christ for the people you serve, motivate, inspire, and propel you into action (2 Corinthians 5:14).

Exercising Gifts of The Spirit With Love

Having understood the primary context of 1 Corinthians 13, that it is presented as the way through which the gifts of the Spirit must be exercised, we consider briefly how the love of God would motivate, guide, and govern the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit, so that it can result in genuine edification of people and bring glory to Jesus Christ. The following is not an exhaustive discussion on how love would motivate, guide, and govern the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit, but rather a starter and we can build further on this, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Love Is Patient and Kind

Be patient with people when ministering to them. People are at different levels of spiritual

understanding and they may not always respond the way you were expecting them to respond to a genuine manifestation of the Spirit.

Be bold, be firm, be confident, but also be kind and gentle when speaking and ministering. There are times when the Spirit of God may instruct or prompt you to do something seemingly daring, rude, or harsh—but when the Spirit of God has instructed you— the outcome will speak for itself and allay any temporary concerns of rudeness or harshness.

Love Is Not Jealous

Guard your heart against jealousy and do not desire the gifts of the Spirit because you are jealous of someone else who God is working through. When the Spirit of God is manifesting wonderfully through someone else, praise God and celebrate what is happening. Observe and learn what you can by watching how God is working and what He is doing through others. But never allow even a trace of jealousy in your heart. Jealousy leads to unhealthy competition, ill will, strife, and all other wrong things.

Love Is Not Proud, Arrogant, or Boastful

When the Holy Spirit manifests through you powerfully, give the Lord all the glory. Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. We must always be strong and confident of our identity in Christ, but always walk with a humble heart that is utterly dependent on Him and not glorying in the flesh. Be watchful over your words that you do not draw attention to yourself when talking about the works done through you.

Love Is Not Rude or Ill-Mannered

As we stated earlier, do not be rude or ill-mannered when ministering to people under the anointing or the gifts of the Spirit. Be as gentle, courteous, and loving as possible. There will be exceptions as we mentioned earlier. There will be times the Holy Spirit leads you to do things that may be strange, uncomfortable, unusual, or unexpected. But just be sure it is the Spirit of God leading you. Then go ahead and do as He leads. The results (outcome, fruit) will speak for themselves and quieten those who may question.

Love Is Not Self-Centered, Self-Seeking, Self-Promoting

Remember the gifts of the Spirit are not to make us look good, but to serve people, meet the needs of people, build people up, and to glorify Jesus Christ. Do not use the gifts of the Spirit to promote yourself, to draw people to yourself, to get favors (money, fame, material benefits, etc.) for yourself.

Encourage others to step out and grow in the gifts of the Spirit. This is not just about you. The more people we have being used by God, the greater impact we will have and more people

who can be ministered to.

Love Is Not Irritable or Easily Angered

When you are moving in love for people, you will rise above the petty things that "go wrong" and keep your focus on the primary objective of serving people with the power of the Holy Spirit. For example, if you have been invited to a place to minister there could be several things going wrong—there may be fewer people in attendance than you were expecting, there could be problems with the sound system, the meeting could be delayed, power-failure, and any number of other things that seem to "go wrong." Keep yourself in the love of God. Refuse to get agitated, irritated, or angered about the situation toward people. (Surely, if the enemy is attempting to interfere, deal with that in the spirit). Keep your heart full of love toward the people. Pray in the Holy Spirit (Jude 1:20). Look to God for the people who have come to be ministered to.

Love has No Evil Intent

When ministering the gifts of the Spirit keep your heart free from any evil intent. Keep your heart free from any desire to control, manipulate, take revenge, etc. For example, if there is someone who you know has spoken bad of you or hurt you in some way, sitting in the audience where you are ministering, or even come to you in person for ministry—let the love of God fill your heart toward that individual. Minister out of love toward that person. Do not try to use the "gift of prophecy" or any other gift to "get back" at that individual. Always keep your motives clean, pure, genuine, and seeking to glorify the Lord alone.

Love Is Truthful, Honest, and Holy

Handle the gifts of the Spirit with honesty, purity, and holiness. These are the manifestations of the HOLY Spirit. There is a sense of awe and holiness with which these gifts should be expressed. If God is speaking or doing something, then flow with Him. If God is silent, do not conjure up something and fake it. Do not be pressured into faking the gifts of the Spirit. God does not anoint imitations. Speak what He reveals faithfully (Jeremiah 23:28).

Love Holds Up, Believes, Hopes, Endures

Love produces hope, believes in God's best for every individual, holds up even when things seem to be going wrong, and is strong to endure when things don't happen as quickly as one would like. When ministering the gifts of the Spirit, even when dealing with difficult things (e.g., sin, failure, wrong intentions, etc.) do it to bring God's best to the individual and move the individual toward God's best for their lives. When the Lord Jesus exposed the sin and problem of the woman at the well at Samaria, she did not leave hopeless, abandoned, and rejected. The result was a woman who stood in awe of the Messiah and even her entire village had the opportunity to encounter Jesus (John 4).

Love Never Fails

The Greek word translated "fails," used in relation to love is '*ekpipto*,' which according to Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary means to "be driven out of one's course; figuratively to lose, become inefficient" and according to Thayer's Greek Definitions includes "to fall from a place from which one cannot keep, to fall from a position, to fall powerless, to fall to the ground, be without effect."

If we put all this together, we get the understanding that when we walk in love, we will not get off course. Walking in love is staying on the right course, the right path. Also, when we walk in love, we will not fall powerless, we will not be brought to dishonor, nor will we become useless. Instead, we will have effect and impact. When we walk in love, we are taking a path on which we will not fail. Whatever you do that is motivated, guided, and governed by the God-kind of love, will have its impact. Ministering the gifts of the Spirit motivated, guided, and governed by the love of God will keep you on the right course, always.

6. How The Holy Spirit Initiates The Release Of The Gifts

In this chapter, we will receive some practical insight on how we hear from the Holy Spirit. We have found the following approach simple and easy to help people learn how to receive what God is speaking to them.

Spirit, Soul, Body

1 Thessalonians 5:23
Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We understand that each of us is a spirit, having a soul, and dwelling in a body. The spirit is the eternal part of us. It will never die or be annihilated. It is also that part of us that relates to the spirit realm. When we are born again, our human spirit receives the life and nature of God. The Holy Spirit of God comes to dwell in our spirits. Many times, the word "heart" is used in the Bible to refer to the spirit. Other times the word "belly" or "innermost being" is used to refer to the spirit of man. The word "inner man" is also used to refer to our spirits. The soul is the psychological part of us. It is the mind, will, and emotions. With the soul we feel, think, reason, and so on. The soul can be carnal (or fleshly), or the soul could be one that is transformed or renewed. The soul is like a processor. It processes input from the spirit and input that comes in through our body. The body is the physical part of us through which we connect with the physical natural world. The body has five senses or channels through which it collects input from the physical world and feeds it into our soul to process. The body is sometimes referred to as our outer man. The natural evil desires of the body and soul together comprise what the Bible refers to as "the flesh."

Spirit To spirit

John 16:13-15
13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.
14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.
15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

Romans 8:14,16
14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirits that we are children of God.

As children of God, we have the wonderful privilege of being led by the Spirit of God. The

Holy Spirit dwells in our spirits and this is where He communicates to us. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will speak to us, guide us, reveal things to us ahead of time, and reveal the very mind of God to us. The main area in which the Spirit of God relates to us is in our spirits. The Old Testament uses the term "lamp" or "candle" to refer to the spirit-man. Proverbs 20:27 says, "*The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart*." God uses our spirits to determine our true condition. It is also in our spirit-man that God enlightens us and give us His counsel and direction. David said, "*For You wil light my lamp; the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness*" (Psalm 18:28). Deep calls unto deep (Psalm 42:7) or the Spirit of God communicates to my spirit. Communication from God normally takes place Spirit to spirit.

Five spirit Senses

Deuteronomy 29:2-4
2 Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land—
3 the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders.
4 Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.

Isaiah 6:9-10
9 And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'
10 "Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed."

(The Lord Jesus quoted these in Matthew 13:14-15. Also quoted in Acts 28:27.)

It is quite clear from Scripture that the human spirit has senses like the physical senses of the human body. We can clearly establish a parallel of the five physical senses to five spirit-senses which the spirit of man is capable of. It is possible that the spirit is also capable of a lot more when it comes to relating to the unseen spiritual realm than what the physical body is capable of in relating to the material world. We now discuss the five spirit-senses

and show from Scripture how the Spirit of God communicates to us through these five channels. We use "spirit" to refer to the human spirit and "Spirit" to refer to the Holy Spirit.

The spirit Sense of Feeling

Our spirits can feel like the physical sense of touch/ feeling. We can have feelings of joy, quietness, and peace in our spirits. We can feel restlessness, uneasiness, a stirring or motivation to action, a feeling of tightness or discomfort, bitterness or anger, a weighty feeling, and so on. These feelings can come and go as a flash or can continue for a period in our spirits. With each feeling, there is a message that the Holy Spirit is communicating to us.

Here are some examples in Scripture:

- Peace (Colossians 3:15): A feeling of peace indicates all is well.
- Stirred or provoked (Acts 17:16-17): A stirring in your spirit is a call to action, to do something about the situation.
- Compelled (Acts 18:5): A feeling of being compelled is usually a call to action, to do something about the situation.
- Bound (Acts 20:22-23): A feeling of tightness or uneasiness is a warning not to go or do something and that some danger is nearby.
- Restlessness (2 Corinthians 2:13): a moving to action, to do something, or an indication that something needs to be looked into.
- Bitterness, heat (Ezekiel 3:14): A feeling of anger is usually again a call to action.
- Spirit fell upon me (Ezekiel 11:5): A weighty feeling is usually an indication of His presence over you, the anointing coming over you and so on.

We must develop the ability to recognize these feelings in our spirits and then understand what the Holy Spirit is testifying or telling us through that feeling. Paul, for instance, felt "*bound in the spirit*," meaning he felt very restrained, had a tight feeling inside him. But he understood the message that the Holy Spirit was telling him that there was going to be trouble up ahead in Jerusalem.

John 3:8
The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

You cannot always explain everything, but you know the Holy Spirit is at work.

The spirit Sense of Seeing

We know that the spirit-man has "eyes" or the ability to "see" and "ears" or the ability to

"hear." For instance, when Jesus was asked by His disciples why He spoke in parables, He responded:

"*Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.' But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear*" (Matthew 13:13–16). The Lord Jesus obviously was referring to the "eyes" and "ears" of the heart and not to the natural organs of sight or hearing. We see pictures and hear words.

Very often we will get pictures and images that come up in our spirits and over into our minds. These are really messages from the Holy Spirit. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, they are a great form of communication. The pictures we see are essentially a basic form of spiritual visions. Sometimes, we see pictures as in a movie, which is a sequence of pictures where things are happening. We can also see pictures when in a trance, or when we are asleep through dreams or visions of the night. There are times when it seems like our spirit-eyes are seeing something in the spirit realm—what is happening inside the spirit of another person or what is happening in the spirit world. And then there is something that could happen, which is to have an out-of-body experience where our spirits travel on a sight-seeing tour, as Prophet Ezekiel experienced often.

The most common experience for most of us is pictures and images that we see. We need to accurately interpret the meaning of the pictures and derive the message that God is conveying to us through them.

Here are a few Scriptural examples:

- Dreams (Job 33:14-17),
- Visions (Daniel 8:1-3; Daniel 10:4-9),
- Pictures (Jeremiah 1:11-14; Amos 8:1-2),
- Seeing events/happenings (John 1:46-48),
- Trance (Acts 10:9-17),
- Seeing in the spirit realm (Numbers 22:31; 2 Kings 6:15-17; Isaiah 6:1-8),
- Travelling and seeing in a vision (Ezekiel 8:1-3; Ezekiel 11:1,24-25; 2 Kings 5:25-26).

Out-of-body experiences could be translation, transportation, and bi-location (2 Kings 2:16; Ezekiel 37:1-2; Ezekiel 43:5-6; Acts 8:39-40; 2 Corinthians 12:1–4). Translation is

when your spirit travels out of your body. Transportation is when the Holy Spirit moves you entirely (spirit, soul, and body) to another place. Bi-location is when you are seen at two places on the earth at the same time. We are unable to understand how bi-location happens.

Interpreting and Communicating What You See

There are two simple guidelines that we can follow when interpreting and communicating what we see in the spirit:

(A) Describe it, if it is literal—if what the Spirit of God is showing you is a literal picture, scene, sequence of events of people, place, and things, then DESCRIBE it just the way He is showing it to you. He may show you names, numbers, dates, etc., all of which must be spoken as shown.
(B) Interpret it, if it is figurative—if what the Spirit of God is showing you is symbolic or figurative, then it is important to interpret the meaning of what is being shown and communicate that.

Always Use Biblical Imagery

Always interpret what you see first using biblical imagery, that is with what these symbols mean in Scripture. It is true that many times you will see images of things that are not in the Bible. In such situations, listen to the Holy Spirit, receive His meaning and interpretation, and deliver the message.

Interpreting Biblical Characters, Incidents, or Texts

There are times when the Holy Spirit will highlight biblical characters, incidents, or passages to deliver a message. Communicate only the same emphasis and to the extent of what the Holy Spirit is desiring to communicate. For instance, if when ministering to an individual, the Holy Spirit highlights the incident of David killing Goliath, then speak just that aspect over the individual. You would say something like "just as David killed Goliath, God will give you great victory over the Goliath you are currently facing." If the Holy Spirit does not highlight the five smooth stones and sling that David used, do NOT add that into the prophetic message. Stay with what the Spirit of God is emphasizing.

For more on interpreting symbols and figures, please see the free APC book: "Understanding the Prophetic."

The spirit Sense of Hearing

We know that the spirit-man has ears. In the Bible, we read verses like, *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."* The reference is to spiritual ears.

Matthew 11:15
He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Revelation 2:7
"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches...

Isaiah 30:20-21
20 And though the Lord gives you The bread of adversity and the water of affliction, Yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, But your eyes shall see your teachers.
21 Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.

Isaiah 50:4-5
4 "The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned.
5 The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away.

When we "hear" in the spirit, we normally do not hear sounds but rather receive the word, words, sentences, or paragraphs that are supernaturally imparted to the spirit-man. Sometimes it can come as a flash of information, suddenly coming into our spirits. Sometimes what we "hear" just comes as a supernatural understanding where we just know. There is an impartation of a whole lot of information and it comes into our spirits.

The information comes into our spirits through an inner knowing, inner witness, an inner voice, and sometimes (although very rarely) an actual audible voice, as in the case of Samuel hearing the voice of God. Only the intended audience can hear the audible voice of God, and those standing alongside normally do not hear it.

God will speak as He chooses. Sometimes you may receive just a single word, but that could be life changing for someone. Sometimes it is just a simple sentence or statement. And then there are times when there is a whole lot of information. Regardless of the volume of information God is communicating, we take all He speaks seriously and seek to deliver it faithfully.

Many times, in the Bible, we read the phrase "*the word of the Lord came*." In some instances, the Bible also indicates that it was an audible voice, a vision, or dream and so on. But in many cases, it does not. I believe, that in most cases when we read the phrase, "*the word of the Lord came*" it was a non-audible impartation of the message to the prophet who received the message through his spirit-ears and then spoke it forth.

Hearing is communication of information. In the natural realm, this communication or transfer of words normally takes place through the medium of sound. In the spiritual realm, normally the medium of sound is not used, although there are instances when you

can hear His voice, the sound of heavenly worship, and so on. Typically, you hear His voice, receive the word or the message He is communicating without any sound. There are times when this knowledge is imparted to your spirit and you just "know" in your spirit. We call this "perceiving," which is the ability to just know or recognize in the spirit. It is written of Jesus on more than one occasion that He knew the thoughts of men. "*But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?*" (Mark 2:8).

Here are a few Scriptural examples:

- A single sentence (Acts 8:29),
- A few sentences (Acts 10:19-20),
- Personal details (2 Kings 6:8-12; John 4:16-18),
- Numbers (Acts 5:1-10),
- Names, numbers, addresses (house or apartment number, birth dates, etc.) (Acts 9:10-12; 10:1-6, 19-20),

The spirit Senses of Taste And Smell

We know that the spirit-man is capable of taste and smell as well. The Bible tells us, *"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good …"* (Psalm 34:8). Ezekiel describes his spiritual experience of eating a scroll and tasting it. *"So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness"* (Ezekiel 3:2-3). This was indeed a spiritual experience where he could taste something in the spirit. See also Revelation 10:8-10.

Many times, God manifests His presence through smell. Just like taste, this smell is "*in the spirit*." You recognize a specific aroma and God uses that aroma to indicate to you what He is desiring to do, or what He wants you to do. Others around you may not smell this, because this is God using your spirit sense of smell to communicate to you. See some Scriptures that use aroma or fragrance as descriptors of what our actions are like before God (Psalm 141:2; 2 Corinthians 2:14-16; Ephesians 5:2; Philippians 4:18; Revelation 5:8; Revelation 8:3-4).

God will cause you to recognize a particular taste/smell and then give you specific understanding on what He is communicating.

- ✓ **Pleasant tastes/smells** can be used to indicate God's pleasure in what we are doing: God is present, God's anointing is at work, God is moving to bring healing, God moving to bring comfort, God is moving to meet a certain kind of need, etc.
- ✓ **Unpleasant tastes/smells** can be a warning to indicate to you to be careful of what

is happening (e.g., a false doctrine being preached, a false prophet deceiving the people, demonic power, seducing spirits, unclean spirits at work, etc.), for you to get out of the situation (e.g., leave now, you don't need to be here, do not interact with these people, etc.).

Do not confuse this with natural smells caused by perfumes, deodorants, air-fresheners, etc. We are referring to smells and tastes that have a spiritual origin and are recognizable to our spirit, like natural smells and tastes.

Training Our Spiritual Senses

We have described above the faculties of the human spirit which are very similar to the five natural senses we have. We must keep in mind that these five spirit-senses do not work in isolation of each other. They are not compartmentalized. Very often when God communicates, there will be things you feel, hear, and see. All these channels will receive pieces of communication and you need to combine them and then present them or act on them.

The other important aspect to know is that our spirit-senses need to be trained to pick up what God is communicating through those channels. The more we learn to listen and receive from God, the more sensitive we will become and the easier it will be to pick up what God is saying. It is like hearing someone's voice. When you have heard their voice several times, you can recognize the voice and who the individual is. The same is with learning to listen to God.

Hebrews 5:13-14
13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.
14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

One of the important ways to train our senses is through being in the Word. The word "senses" means "organ of perception." Both the spiritual and emotional organs of perception need to be trained through the constant use of the Word of God. This gives our senses the ability to discern what is of God and what is not.

Once we pick things up in our spirits, we then usually process this in our souls (mind, will, emotions) to validate that this is indeed from the Lord and then determine what to do with it, when, how, and so on. So, we must also train our minds to process what we receive through the spirit. We must have our minds renewed with the Word of God and the whole counsel of God to accurately process what we are picking up in the spirit. This training manual is a tool to help us train our spirits and minds to hear from God and process what we are hearing.

Distinguishing The Voice Of The Spirit From The Voice Of Our Soul

One of the big challenges in this training process is to **learn how to differentiate what is of the Spirit and what is of our own imagination**. Reflect and learn from every experience you have of manifesting the gifts of the Spirit. Develop your own library of what went right and what went wrong. This is a continuous learning process that you need to maintain, so that with time, you will be able to differentiate the voice of the Spirit and the voice of your own soul.

When a person wants to learn swimming, we start at the shallow end, not the deep end of the pool. We let them get used to being in the water, start with some basic strokes and then gradually progress to more challenging styles. Similarly, when learning to listen to the Holy Spirit, start in simple ways. Learn to listen and obey in small things. For example: Learn to release simple words of prophecy that bring edification, exhortation, and comfort. Don't try to jump immediately into the deep end of predictive, corrective, and directive prophecies. Once you get comfortable with the basic level of ministering prophecy, you can journey with God into deeper realms of the prophetic.

Here are a few insights that might be useful, when learning to listen to the Holy Spirit:

Quiet Your Soul and then Listen to the Holy Spirit

Very often if our mind and emotions are distracted, troubled, overwhelmed with earthly matters, then it is quite difficult (though not impossible) to receive what the Spirit of God is saying. So, the key is to learn to "be still" so that we can "know" what God is speaking.

The First Voice Is God's Voice

Another useful insight is to take the first voice and stay with it. By this we mean, that often, when we have heard a genuine word from God, our minds, reasoning, analyzing kick in, and we begin to doubt, question, become fearful, etc. We then reason ourselves out of what God has spoken. We then do not act or speak according to what we first heard, which was a genuine Word of God. Our reasoning got the better of us and robbed us out of what the Spirit was saying.

Get "Out of your Mind" to Flow with the Spirit

Please understand this correctly. We are not advocating the abandonment of our minds or intellect. God gave us our minds and intellect and we must put it to good use. However, God is much greater than our minds and intellect. Often, there will be instructions and revelations that come from the Spirit of God that just don't fit or compute with our way of thinking, reasoning, or analysis. God reveals things that are way beyond our ability to

know or understand. This is where we move trusting God and in one sense are completely "out of our mind," when following the Holy Spirit. There is no other way to move in the things of God. We cannot confine an infinite God to the level of our finite minds, intellect, or reasoning. He is infinitely bigger, and we must have childlike trust to move with Him in the Spirit.

When Unsure, Share, and Validate

Especially in the initial stages of learning how to listen to the Holy Spirit, it is perfectly fine to share what you think you are receiving from the Spirit of God and ask someone to validate if it is right or wrong. You will find that sometimes you are right and at other times you could be wrong. Use this as a learning process. It is alright to make mistakes. Learn from mistakes so that you know when you are genuinely hearing from the Spirit of God, and when it was your own mind or other distractions.

God Can Touch Our Soul And Body

Although we have emphasized the importance of separating what we hear from the Spirit and what we feel in our souls, we must also remember that God can touch our soul (emotions) and our body. So, there are times when we will have strong feelings and sensations in our soul or body, that are from the Lord. Here again there is a process of learning to discern when what we feel in our soul or body is of the Lord and when it is not from Him. For example, God may momentarily let you feel in your emotions or in your physical body something that He is addressing or dealing with. You may have a momentary sensation of burning, tingling, pain in a certain part of your body, and God is indicating through this a healing that He is bringing to people in that part of their body.

Study Approach

For instructional purposes, the nine gifts of the Spirit are commonly classified into three groupings:

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT		
VOCAL GIFTS (Gifts that say something)	**REVELATION GIFTS** (Gifts that reveal something)	**POWER GIFTS** (Gifts that do something)
Tongues Interpretation of tongues Prophecy	Word of wisdom Word of knowledge Discerning of spirits	Gifts of healings Workings of miracles Faith

The above classification is only for teaching/training purposes. In reality, we will find any

combination of gifts flowing together to minister to people.

For each gift we will provide a definition, reference relevant examples in Scripture, list a few of its operations (where and how they could be used today), how the gift is received, and how to properly release the gift. Please keep in mind that all this is for equipping purposes only. Having an understanding and proper guideline will help us get started and give us confidence to make ourselves readily available to the Holy Spirit. **In practice, the Holy Spirit will move in a variety of ways and His expressions are beyond the definitions and operations that anyone can capture in any book or training program. The Holy Spirit is infinite, and the diversities of His expressions are also infinite.**

7. KINDS OF TONGUES

Definition

The gift of diverse kinds of tongues is the supernatural ability to speak in languages of men or of angels. There are a variety of uses of the diversities of tongues:

A. As a personal prayer language to commune with God,
B. For deep intercession for others,
C. As a message with interpretation to a church congregation,
D. To reach the unsaved for Christ, etc.

This gift of the Spirit is a supernatural work and hence is not the same as an acquired skill of learned languages (e.g., as a linguist).

Biblical Examples: Old Testament

While the gift of diversities of tongues is not seen in operation in the Old Testament, we do see the first time when "diversity of tongues" was released on the earth in Genesis 11:1-9. Also, Isaiah the prophet, prophesied about the New Testament believers experience of speaking with other tongues (Isaiah 28:11-12; 1 Corinthians 14:21).

Biblical Examples: New Testament

The Lord Jesus Foretold this Sign

The Lord Jesus foretold that those who believed in Him would speak in tongues. *"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover"* (Mark 16:17-18).

Throughout the Early Church

Starting from the Day of Pentecost, we see several records of speaking in tongues in the Early Church:

1) Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).

2) Church in Samaria (Acts 8:14-18). While it is not explicitly stated that they prayed in tongues, we can infer that something supernatural happened when the Holy Spirit was given. (Simon offered them money!) We are safe to conclude that they spoke in tongues as on the Day of Pentecost, which was the norm, as seen by the apostles' response in Acts 10, at Cornelius' house.
3) Saul, after his conversion (Acts 9:17; 1 Corinthians 14:18). Saul was filled with the Spirit when Ananias laid hands on him. We know Saul spoke in tongues a lot.
4) Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:44-46).
5) Believers at Ephesus (Acts 19:1-6).
6) Corinthian Church (1 Corinthians 12:7-11,28; 1 Corinthians 14:1- 40).
7) Ephesian Church (Ephesians 6:18). Praying in the Spirit (or Praying with the Spirit) according to Paul's writings (1 Corinthians 14:14-15), is speaking in tongues.
8) We know that other churches were also planted through the preaching of the Gospel with the power of the Holy Spirit. We can therefore state with confidence that what Paul taught the Corinthians, he would have imparted to all believers across all churches.
9) Jude, writing to all believers (Jude 1:20).

Operations

The diversities of tongues or speaking in languages given supernaturally by the Holy Spirit has several uses. Broadly speaking, we see that tongues can be used in personal life or in public ministry. Public ministry could be in a congregational setting for believers or toward the unsaved (unbelievers).

1) All believers can speak with tongues (Mark 16:17).
2) When you speak in tongues, you can declare the wonderful works of God (Acts 2:11).
3) When you speak in tongues, you can praise, extol, magnify, and glorify God (Acts 10:46).
4) Tongues is one of the manifestations of the Spirit, where the presence and power of the Spirit is made evident (1 Corinthians 12:7-11).
5) When you speak in tongues, you could be speaking in earthly or heavenly languages (1 Corinthians 13:1).
6) Tongues helps in praying mysteries, things beyond what you personally know (1 Corinthians 14:2).
7) Tongues bring personal edification—growth, strengthening, developing—like constructing a building (1 Corinthians 14:4).
8) Tongues with interpretation to a congregation can bring edification to the gathering (1 Corinthians 14:5).
9) When you pray in tongues your spirit is doing the praying. Your mind is not involved. "*For if I pray in an [unknown] tongue, my spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays, but my mind is unproductive [it bears no fruit and helps nobody*]" (1 Corinthians

14:14, AMPC).

10) Praying and singing in tongues can be done at your own "will," that is you can start and stop whenever you want to, just the same way as praying or singing in a known language with understanding. "*What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding*" (1 Corinthians 14:15).
11) Praying in tongues is also called praying with the Spirit. My spirit is praying empowered by the Spirit of God. "*Then what am I to do? I will pray with my spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me], but I will also pray [intelligently] with my mind and understanding; I will sing with my spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me], but I will sing [intelligently] with my mind and understanding also*" (1 Corinthians 14:15, AMPC).
12) You can ask the Holy Spirit to direct your prayer with the Spirit toward a particular person or matter. Example, the Apostle Paul says you can pray and give thanks for a meal with the Spirit: "*Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified*" (1 Corinthians 14:16-17).
13) The Prophet Isaiah prophesied about speaking in tongues and pointed that this will bring rest and refreshing to God's people. "*For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, to whom He said, "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest," And, "This is the refreshing"; Yet they would not hear*" (Isaiah 28:11-12; 1 Corinthians 14:21). The word "rest" in Hebrew is '*nuach*' and is used to mean resting place, place of quietness, peace, stillness, comfort.
14) Tongues can be a sign to unbelievers pointing them to God (1 Corinthians 14:22).
15) Prayer with the Spirit can help you overcome the weakness of the flesh (Romans 8:26).
16) When you pray with the Spirit, you make intercession for saints—God's people (Romans 8:26-27).
17) When you pray with the Spirit, you pray according to the will of God (Romans 8:27).
18) When you pray with the Spirit, you build yourself up on your faith (Jude 1:20).
19) Praying in the Spirit enables you to stay in the love of God (Jude 1:20-21).
20) Praying in the Spirit is part of your spiritual armor (Ephesians 6:18).
21) For some, praying in tongues (example: intercessory prayer ministry, public ministry in tongues, and interpretation) is their membership function (1 Corinthians 12:28).

For more information, please see the free APC book: "The Wonderful Benefits of Speaking in Tongues," available as a free download at apcwo.org/books.

Receiving Tongues For Personal Use

We see in the New Testament that it was the normal practice to pray for believers to be

filled with the Holy Spirit (or baptized in the Holy Spirit). At this point, they begin to speak with other tongues and flow in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. From there on, as a believer you can speak (or sing) in tongues as part of your personal prayer life as often as you desire and whenever you desire.

1 Corinthians 14:14-15
14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.
15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

The Various Uses of Tongues in Personal Life

- When needing to be renewed, recharged, and refreshed.
- When wanting to be personally edified.
- When seeking to know the mind of the Lord (e.g., when making decisions).
- When interceding for others.
- When stirring yourself up to flow in the gifts.
- When just simply waiting on the Lord and spending time in His presence.

No Need to Interpret Always

When using tongues in private or personal prayer, there is no need to always interpret. You can pray in tongues whenever you desire and as long as you desire, and you do not have to interpret what you are praying, because God understands what is being prayed. You may speak in several different languages over a period or even within a single session of your prayer time.

Understanding Mysteries

1 Corinthians 2:9-16
9 But as it is written: "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."
10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.
11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.
12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.
13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit **teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**
14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.
16 For "WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD THAT HE MAY INSTRUCT HIM?" But we have the mind of Christ.

One of the works of the Spirit is that He reveals the mysteries of God to us. Mysteries in Scripture refer to truth that was once hidden from man, not known to the mind of man, but is now unveiled or revealed. While there are mysteries that have to do with God's purpose for the human race, for the Church, and so on, there are also mysteries that have to do with God's purposes for us individually. For each of us, God has prepared good works ahead of time for us to walk in (Ephesians 2:10). Our responsibility is to discover the plans and purposes of God for us personally and then pursue their fulfillment empowered by God. The interesting truth is that when we pray/speak in tongues we are speaking mysteries (1 Corinthians 14:2) inspired by the Holy Spirit. So, it is safe to infer that speaking in tongues puts us in a place where we are engaging with the mysteries of God for things that concern our own lives. As we pray in the Spirit, our spirit-man begins to receive an understanding of the purposes of God from the Holy Spirit. As we pray in tongues, we begin to understand the things that are freely given to us from God, which have been planned and ordained by God for our lives. Hence, this is a powerful use of tongues in our personal life and walk with God.

Receiving Tongues For Use In Public Ministry

The Holy Spirit can direct the use of tongues in church gatherings or as a sign to the unbeliever.

In Church Gatherings

Follow biblical instructions on the proper use of tongues in gatherings.

1 Corinthians 14:5,12-13
5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.
12 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.
13 Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

Those speaking in tongues to a congregation should pray for interpretation. The interpretation could be brought forth by the same person who gave the message in tongues or by someone else.

1 Corinthians 14:18-19
18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all.
19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Pray a lot in tongues in personal prayer. But when speaking to a congregation speak what everyone can understand.

1 Corinthians 14:23-28
23 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?
24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all.
25 And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.
26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.
27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret.
28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

When the church comes together as a congregation and there are unbelievers/uninformed people, it is better not to have everyone speak in tongues out loud at the same time (Vs 23). It is best that in such a setting two or three public messages be given, and someone interpret (Vs 27). However, in such a setting, individual believers can pray quietly in tongues (Vs 28).

As a Sign to the Unbeliever

1 Corinthians 14:22
Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.

The Holy Spirit can prompt the use of tongues as a sign to the unbeliever. The person speaking in a tongue inspired by the Holy Spirit could be speaking in the language that the unsaved person understands and deliver a message from the Lord pointing that person to Jesus Christ. What happened on the Day of Pentecost is an example of this.

The gift of the diversities of tongues is a simple, yet wonderful gift of the Spirit and all believers should be encouraged to have this in operation in their lives.

1 Corinthians 14:39-40
39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.
40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

8. THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

Definition

The gift of the interpretation of tongues is the supernatural ability to interpret (give the meaning of) a message given in tongues. While interpretation of tongues can be used in personal prayer life, typically this would be used to interpret a message given in tongues to a congregation. However, it is possible that this same supernatural gift can be used by the Holy Spirit to help a person understand a spoken language that she/he has not learned at a given moment in time.

This gift of the Spirit is a supernatural work and hence is not the same as an acquired skill of learned languages (e.g., as a linguist).

Please keep in mind that this is interpretation and not translation. In interpretation, you do not do a word for word translation, but you give the gist of the meaning or essence of what is being spoken. So, it is possible that the duration of a message given in tongues and the interpretation of that message may not match. Don't get alarmed or don't judge the interpretation based on this.

Biblical Examples: Old Testament

While we do not have many expressions of the gift of interpretation of tongues in the Old Testament, we have the account in Daniel 5:1-29, that took place in the palace of Belshazzar, the then king of Chaldeans. He saw a handwriting on the wall. The wise men and astrologers of his court could not read or interpret the writing. But Daniel read the writing and interpreted its meaning.

Biblical Examples: New Testament

In the New Testament, we read about the gift of interpretation of tongues being listed among the nine gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, and Paul giving instructions on its use in congregational settings in 1 Corinthians 14.

Operations

Tongues and Interpretation for Personal Use

As mentioned in the previous chapter, when praying in tongues in your personal prayer time, it is not necessary for you to interpret everything. You can spend several hours praying in tongues, be spiritually edified and built up, without interpreting. Tongues and interpretation can be beneficial in personal life to help you understand the meaning of what you are praying. You can get the meaning of what you are praying by speaking out the interpretation of what you are praying, or by just picking it up in your spirit, so that you understand what the Spirit of God is saying.

There are several areas where tongues and interpretation when in personal use, can be beneficial:

1) For personal guidance and direction, understanding the plans and purposes of God for your personal life.
2) For decision making in matters you are responsible for (e.g., workplace, business, ministry, etc.)
3) Revelation and insight into the things of God e.g., insights into the Word, into the ways of God in the earth currently, etc.
4) To receive creative ideas, inspiration foresight, strategies, etc. from God.

Tongues and Interpretation When Ministering to a Congregation

This has already been explained in the previous chapter and is repeated here for completeness.

Tongues with interpretation to a congregation can bring edification to the gathering (1 Corinthians 14:5) and could have the same benefit as prophecy bringing edification, exhortation, and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3).

Those speaking in tongues to a congregation should pray for interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:5,12-13).

Pray a lot in tongues in personal prayer. But when speaking to a congregation speak what everyone can understand (1 Corinthians 14:18-19).

When the church comes together as a congregation and there are unbelievers/uninformed people, it is better not to have everyone speak in tongues out loud at the same time (1 Corinthians 14:23). It is best that in such a setting two or three

public messages be given, and someone interpret (1 Corinthians 14:27). However, in such a setting, individual believers can pray quietly in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:28).

How Interpretation Of Tongues Is Received

Receiving interpretation of tongues is very similar to how any of the other revelation gifts or the gift of prophecy is received. Holy Spirit can use any of our spirit senses to communicate the essence of the message that was spoken in tongues. Typically, you begin by speaking out the very first word/thought/idea that the Holy Spirit inspires and then the rest follows. This is further explained in the next chapter.

9. PROPHECY

Definition

Prophecy is simply God speaking to man through man. It is a supernaturally inspired message from God which a person receives and communicates either to another individual or a group of people.

Prophecy is not the same as good preaching. Good preaching can be done with study, preparation, skill, and good oration. Prophecy is supernaturally inspired by the Holy Spirit and does not depend on preparation or good oratory skills.

1 Corinthians 14:3
But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

The simple gift of prophecy is given for **edification** (building up), **exhortation** (encouragement), and **comfort**. In addition to the above, a person in mature and consistent prophetic ministry would flow in **correction**, **direction**, **revelation**, and **prediction** (foretelling).

The entirety of Scripture is prophetic since it was given by inspiration (Romans 16:26; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:16-21). The Scriptures provide us the basis by which we test all other prophecies.

1 Peter 1:20-21
20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,
21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

In exercising the gift of prophecy, we are also speaking as we are moved by the Holy Spirit. So, all true prophecy will not contradict the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit is the Author of the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16) and so He will never contradict what He has already established in His written Word. The Spirit and the Word agree (1 John 5:7).

Biblical Examples: Old Testament

In the Old Testament, God raised up and used many men and women to prophesy. These include Enoch, Abraham, Moses, Miriam, Moses' assistants, Deborah, and many of the judges, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, several unnamed prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and many others.

Many of the Old Testament prophets prophesied of the grace that would come to us (1 Peter 1:10).

In the Old Testament only certain individuals had the Holy Spirit working through them and hence only certain individuals could prophesy. Hence people who needed to hear from God were dependent on prophets. Even kings had to go to the priest or the prophet to hear from God. However, in the New Testament things are different. In the New Covenant, every believer has the Spirit of God at work in and through them and hence every child of God can be led by the Spirit of God, hear from God, receive instruction and revelation brought to their hearts personally by the Spirit.

Keep in mind that the Holy Spirit Himself has not changed. Hence the prophetic experiences, demonstrations of prophetic power and prophetic expressions seen under the Old Testament can also be experienced today. In fact, we should expect those demonstrations and even more, since we are in a more glorious covenant with a more glorious ministry of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:5-11).

Biblical Examples: New Testament

In the New Testament, before the birth of the Church in Acts Chapter 2, we have examples of men and women who prophesied.

1. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied about Mary (Luke 1:41).
2. Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied about his son John the Baptist (Luke 1:67-80).
3. Simeon prophesied over the child Jesus and to Mary (Luke 2:25-35).
4. Anna, a prophetess prophesied at about the same time as Simeon and "*spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem*" (Luke 2:36-38).
5. John the Baptist was called the prophet of the Highest (Luke 1:76) and the greatest of the Old Covenant prophets by Jesus (Luke 7:26-28). He came in the spirit and power of Elijah, preached a message of repentance, announced the Kingdom of God, prepared the way for the Messiah, and pointed to Jesus the Lamb of God.
6. The Lord Jesus was Himself whom the Prophet Moses spoke about. People recognized Him as "*Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people"* (Luke 24:19). As a Prophet, the Lord Jesus heard what the Father spoke, saw what the Father did, and acted in accordance with the Father. He perceived the thoughts of people. He revealed God's purposes for individuals. He foretold the coming of the Holy Spirit, the end time events before the day of the Lord, opened up the Scriptures, and so much more. After His ascension He dispensed gifts to His Church, including that of the prophet.

The Early Church

We see a lot of prophetic activity in the Early Church as recorded through the book of Acts and the Epistles.

1. The Day of Pentecost began a new era of God's working where the Spirit would be poured out on all people empowering them among other things, to prophesy. "'*AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAYS GOD, THAT I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHESY, YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS. AND ON MY MENSERVANTS AND ON MY MAIDSERVANTS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT IN THOSE DAYS; AND THEY SHALL PROPHESY*" (Acts 2:17-18).
2. The twelve apostles were both apostolic and prophetic. Some of them, along with the apostle Paul were used to bring revelation and write the Scriptures for the establishing of the Church. "*Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone"* (Ephesians 2:20). "*Which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets"* (Ephesians 3:5).
3. The Church in Jerusalem, in addition to the 12 apostles/ prophets saw other prophets being nurtured and raised up. Agabus, Judas, Silas were among these prophets at Jerusalem. We have this record: "*And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar*" (Acts 11:27-28; Agabus prophesied to Paul later. See Acts 21:10). Judas and Silas who were part of the church in Jerusalem were recognized as prophets: "*Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words*" (Acts 15:32).
4. The Church in Antioch also had prophets raised up among them as part of the leadership team there. "*Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul*" (Acts 13:1).
5. Believers in local churches were encouraged to prophesy. This can be understood from Paul's letter to the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 12-14). When the believers at Ephesus were baptized in the Holy Spirit it is recorded that they also prophesied. "*And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied*" (Acts 19:6). It would be safe to assume that this would have happened at several other locations, although not necessarily recorded for us.
6. Both men and women prayed and prophesied. We see this in the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 11:4-5). If it were wrong for women to prophesy in the local church, Paul would not have permitted it to begin with. Philip the evangelist from the church in Jerusalem, who had settled down in Caesarea had four daughters who all

prophesied. "*Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied*" (Acts 21:9).

7. The gifts of Christ to His Church include that of the prophet, given to build up the Church. This gift has not been withdrawn from its operation in the Church. "*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers"* (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28). The prophets equip God's people to be prophetic.
8. Angels have also been used to bring messages from God. We see this in both the Testaments.
9. The prophetic and the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit will continue even through the Great Tribulation where there will be two witnesses (Old Testament prophets, most likely Enoch, and Elijah) who will prophesy and do mighty signs and wonders (Revelation 11:3-6).

The Church Today

We are living in the last days when God is pouring out His Spirit on all flesh, men, and women, of all ages will see visions, dreams, and prophesy (Acts 2:17-18). The prophetic work of the Spirit continues to be expressed through the Church: (A) through the gift of prophecy which all believers can flow in (1 Corinthians 12:7-11), (B) the prophesying believer as a membership function (Romans 12:6) and (C) the ministry gift of prophet (Ephesians 4:11). The Church of today will walk in all the expressions of the prophetic seen in Scripture and even greater expressions. The glory of the latter house will be greater than that of the former.

In this chapter, we provide basic information on the manifestation of the gift of prophecy. We will not be covering all aspects of the prophetic. For a more detailed study on the prophetic, please see APC's free book: "Understanding The Prophetic" available as a free download from apcwo.org/books.

Operations

All believers filled with the Spirit (baptized in the Holy Spirit) can prophesy, in fact, we must all earnestly desire to prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:1,3,5,31,39
1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.
3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.
5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied;...
31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.
39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

According to 1 Corinthians 14:1, all of us must pursue love. The rest of that verse also applies to all of us. All of us must desire spiritual gifts and specially to prophesy. All

believers can prophesy so that all can learn, and all can be encouraged (Vs 31). The Apostle Paul concludes his instruction on the gifts of the Spirit by encouraging all believers to earnestly desire (seek eagerly) to prophesy (Vs 39).

The gift of prophecy brings an inspired word to bless and enrich people's lives by bringing strength, encouragement, and comfort. Very often this gift will flow along with the other gifts, as a "gift pack" (e.g., along with words of knowledge, words of wisdom, etc.).

We must not despise prophecies. We test all things and hold on to what is good. "*Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good*" (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21).

Prophecy is also listed as one of the membership gifts. This would be the gift of prophecy that accompanies a believer's function in the body. We also learn here that we prophesy in proportion to our faith. "*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith*" (Romans 12:6).

Here is a short list on some uses the gift of prophecy can serve:

1. To reveal what Jesus is saying and to point to Him, that is to testify to Him and of Him. The witness of Jesus—what Jesus says and does, the truth that Jesus reveals, and the truth that points to Him—is the inspiration for all prophecy. "*And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*" (Revelation 19:10). The word "testimony" in Greek '*marturia*' is the evidence, report, truth presented by a witness. According to Revelation 1:2 and 9, the "*testimony of Jesus*" is the witness given to Him.
2. To bring strength, encouragement, and comfort. "But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men" (1 Corinthians 14:3). We edify individuals and the church through prophesying (1 Corinthians 14:4-6).
3. To motivate someone into action in a specific area. "As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, '*Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them'* " (Acts 13:2).
4. To reveal the potential God has placed in a person. "*And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone)"* (John 1:42).
5. To bring confirmation of what God has been speaking to someone.
6. To inspire prayer for a particular matter or an individual.
7. To bring guidance and direction on the course of action. "While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, '*Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore,*

go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them' " (Acts 10:19-20).

8. To bring correction to an individual or community.
9. To bring fresh insight into the Scriptures. "*Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:25-27,32). "Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me*." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures" (Luke 24:44-45).
10. To alert believers of coming events (opportunities, dangers, etc.) so they can prepare to take action. "*And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul*" (Acts 11:27-30).
11. To warn of dangers that lie ahead. "*And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me" (Acts 20:22-23). "And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem" (Acts 21:4). "And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, 'Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles' "* (Acts 21:10-11).
12. To reveal secrets so that people will be drawn to God. "*But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you*" (1 Corinthians 14:24-25).
13. To wage a good warfare. "*This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare*" (1 Timothy 1:18).
14. To appoint people into their ministry/function and impart spiritual gifts as the Spirit leads. "*Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership*" (1 Timothy 4:14).
15. To declare God's purposes "*about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings*" (Revelation 10:11).

How Prophecy Is Received

The Holy Spirit can use any of our spirit senses to communicate a word of prophecy to us. So, we need to stay tuned into what the Spirit of God is releasing through our spirit senses. In prophecy, God often uses imagery—visions or visuals and symbols to communicate a message. So, we need to correctly understand and interpret what He is showing us.

Hosea 12:10
I have also spoken by the prophets, and have multiplied visions; I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets."

We share a simple Pray–Perceive–Prophesy approach to help you receive prophecy from the Holy Spirit. This is a simple way to get started. Later, there will be times you go directly into Perceive-Prophesy, as the Holy Spirit moves you.

Pray

Desire to prophesy. Start out by asking the Holy Spirit for a word of prophecy or for a release of the prophetic flow through you so you can bring a word of prophecy, as the Spirit wills. Then start praying for the individual or group that you wish to minister to. You may begin with a general prayer of blessing.

Perceive

While you are praying, listen and understand what the Spirit of God wants to communicate, and to whom He wants to communicate. As we saw in an earlier chapter, the Holy Spirit can communicate to you through your spirit-faculties. He may use one or more ways to communicate His message to you. A still small inner impression or witness. Information that wells up in your spirit. A knowing on the inside. Pictures that come up in your spirit. A word, then a sentence, then a paragraph. Physical sensations. Highlighting Scriptures, Scripture portions. Revealing names, numbers, etc.

Prophesy

Discern if the Holy Spirit is speaking. If He is speaking, share the message. Step out with the first word you receive and as you deliver this, you are likely to receive additional words and more information from the Holy Spirit. If you are not receiving any specific message from the Holy Spirit that is fine. Just pray and bless the person.

Quick Check To Validate What You Are Receiving Before Delivering

As you are receiving a message to be delivered (either to an individual or a gathering),

you can do a quick check to validate what you are receiving before you deliver the message. Here are some ways to check what you are perceiving:

Does it Align itself with the Written Scriptures?

The Holy Spirit is the Author of the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16) and so He will never contradict what He has already established in His written Word. The Spirit and the Word agree. "*For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one"* (1 John 5:7). For example, a "prophecy" that instructs a believer who is married to divorce his / her spouse who has been faithful to the marriage, contradicts God's Word and hence must not be delivered.

Do I Sense God's Presence, Anointing, and Inspiration when Receiving this?

Are you personally aware of God's presence, His anointing and inspiration of the Holy Spirit? Is there a peace and an assurance in your spirit? If "yes", then you can proceed to deliver the prophecy. On the other hand, if you sense a check or an alerting in your Spirit, that the Holy Spirit is bringing your attention to, then pause. Hold on. Don't deliver the message.

Does it Bring Strength, Encouragement, and Comfort?

As we saw in 1 Corinthians 14:3, prophecy brings strength, encouragement, and comfort to the person or individuals or group to whom it will be delivered. Even if there is a warning, correction, direction, or prediction it will always show a way to receive hope, righteousness, peace, and joy. "*For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*" (Romans 14:17).

Is My Spirit Clean, Free from Bias and Prejudice?

Sometimes when there is a lot of emotions involved, a bias, prejudice or other feelings involved, you need to be very careful not to let these emotions affect what you are perceiving. For example, if you have a bias against people who have weird hairstyles, piercings on their nose, ears, etc., tattoos, etc., you may tend to want to speak strong words of rebuke, repentance, and so on. But this may not be what the Holy Spirit desires to speak to that individual. So, you really need to keep your spirit clean and free from being influenced by your soulish predispositions so you can perceive clearly what the Holy Spirit is saying. If you feel you are being overwhelmed by your own bias and prejudice, then pray, ask the Holy Spirit to help you lay these aside and perceive clearly what He wants for that person.

How To Release (Deliver) Prophecy

When delivering prophecy, keep the following in mind:

1. There are many ways to express prophecy. You can speak it, pray it, sing it, do it, write it, draw it, paint it, live it. Choose the method that you feel the Spirit is leading you to or what you see is best for the occasion.
2. The words you choose to communicate the message, the tone of your voice and when you deliver the message are all in your control. "*For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets*" (1 Corinthians 14:31-32).
3. When you deliver the message is in your control. The presentation of the revelation is as important as the revelation itself. Be sensitive to the Spirit and act when He releases you to do so.
4. Allow yourself to be judged. All prophecy must be judged (1 Corinthians 14:29-30; 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21). So always encourage the recipient to test what you have spoken to them. The Giver of the gift is perfect and the gift is perfect—but the vessel through which the gift is being released is not perfect. Therefore, the message may be tainted with some of the individual's own thoughts and ideas. Hence, the need to test all prophecy.
5. Do not be too hasty to use the "Thus saith the Lord" or "The Lord says" as a prefix to your prophecy. Instead, it would be much better to just say "I sense in my spirit..." or "I sense the Lord laying this on my heart for you..." etc., because this allows the recipient to judge what you are saying. A genuine word from God will have its impact.
6. Remember we know in part and we prophesy in part (1 Corinthians 13:9). Sometimes it may be a short word, and sometimes you may receive much more. Share faithfully whatever you receive.
7. Prophecy can flow along with other gifts. So, flow along with the other gifts that the Spirit of God desires to release, along with the word of prophecy.
8. Communicate clearly and in simple language so that the individual or people understand what is being said. "*Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle*?" (1 Corinthians 14:7-8).
9. Prophecy can be delivered:

    - To individuals,
    - To a small group,
    - To a large church gathering,
    - By prophetic presbytery—a team of prophetic ministers ministering to individuals prophetically (1 Timothy 4:14).

Guidelines For Exercising The Gift Of Prophecy In Small Groups

1) Use the gifts for edification, not for embarrassing people, or destruction or condemnation (1 Corinthians 14:3,5,12,16-17).
2) Let everyone participate. "*For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged*" (1 Corinthians 14:31).
3) Follow instructions from your small group leader and proper order. Two or three ministers at a time and the others wait for them to finish and then another two or three can minister.

1 Corinthians 14:29-33,39-40
29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.
30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent.
31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.
32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.
33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.
39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.
40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

4) Allow yourself to be judged and corrected. Similarly, if someone makes a mistake, correct in love (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21).

You Can Also Minister Prophecy To The Unsaved (Unbelievers)

1 Corinthians 14:24-25
24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all.
25 And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

As we stated in an earlier chapter, the gifts of the Spirit can be used to minister to anyone, including those who are not saved. The gifts of the Spirit can be manifested anywhere, not just in a church service. You can even take it to the streets! We can reach people with the Gospel and minister to them with the gifts of the Spirit. Prophecy can touch people's hearts, let them know that God knows them and cares about them, and this can cause them to come to faith in Christ (prophetic evangelism).

Don't Try To Be A "Fortuneteller"

People go to fortunetellers to hear what they want to hear about. Don't let other believers use you (the gift of prophecy or any of the revelation gifts flowing through you) as a fortuneteller.

Don’t Practice Witchcraft

Witchcraft is essentially attempting to manipulate and control people, their thoughts, and actions, using spiritual power or spiritual authority. Therefore, we submit all prophecy and other revelatory expressions to recipients to test, judge, and receive, if they feel like doing so. Don’t try to control and manipulate people through prophetic words.

10. Word Of Wisdom

Definition

The gift of the word of wisdom is a piece of God's divine and infinite wisdom that is supernaturally imparted to a believer that reveals the mind, purpose and will of God. The word of wisdom could be used:

- to know what course of action to take,
- to know what is coming up in the future,
- to release creative, artistic, scientific, intelligent expression of a concept or idea and more.

A word is part of a sentence. This is called the gift of the word of wisdom and hence it is a small piece of God's infinite wisdom that He supernaturally imparts to us to address the situation at hand.

The gift of the word of wisdom is different from acquired wisdom which comes through experience and learning. Acquired wisdom is important and we are encouraged to receive the counsel of godly people (Proverbs 11:14; Proverbs 15:22; Proverbs 19:20; Proverbs 20:18). However, the gift of the word of wisdom is supernaturally imparted by the Holy Spirit and can be released through any believer regardless of their experience or learning.

The following are a few biblical examples.

Biblical Examples: Old Testament

Joseph —Interpreting Dreams and Providing Solutions

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Joseph was able to interpret Pharaoh's dream and then also provide a solution on what to do (Genesis 40:1-23; Genesis 41:1-38).

Bezalel—Inspired Creativity

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Bezalel was able to design creative and artistic works in cutting jewels, carving wood, and all other kinds of work needed to be done for the tabernacle (Exodus 31:1-5).

David—Inspired Architectural Design

David was a shepherd, a musician, a warrior. He had no experience in architectural design. But inspired by the Spirit, David drew up the design for the temple which Solomon was to build (1 Chronicles 28:11-12,19).

Ezekiel—Being Transported in Visions into the Future

"*Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. It was like the appearance of the vision which I saw—like the vision which I saw when I came to destroy the city. The visions were like the vision which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face. And the glory of the LORD came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple. Then I heard Him speaking to me from the temple, while a man stood beside me*" (Ezekiel 43:1-6).

Daniel—Revealing and Interpreting Dreams and Foretelling Coming Events

Daniel was able to reveal what Nebuchadnezzar dreamt (example of a word of knowledge) and then to interpret the dream and foretell coming events. He did this on other occasions as well. Daniel also had an angel come to bring him understanding and tell him of what was to happen (Daniel 2:17-49; Daniel 4:4-27; Daniel 5; Daniel 9:20-27; Daniel 10-12).

Biblical Examples: New Testament

Wise Men—Warned in a Dream not to go Back to Herod

"*Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way*" (Matthew 2:12).

Joseph—warned by an angel in a dream to go toEgypt

"*Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, 'Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him' "* (Matthew 2:13).

Jesus—When Questioned About Paying Taxes

The Pharisees tried to trap Jesus by asking Him whether it was lawful to pay taxes to Ceasar or not. If Jesus said "yes," then the Pharisees could say that Jesus supported the Romans and was against the Jews and they could turn the Jews against Him. If Jesus said, "No," they could hand him over to the Romans, with the reason that Jesus was leading a revolt against the Roman government. "*And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way"* (Matthew 22:15-22; Mathew 22:41-46).

Paul—Direction to Go into Macedonia

"*And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them*" (Acts 16:9-10)

Paul—Declaring Outcome When Ship was Caught in a Storm

"*Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up. But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. However, we must run aground on a certain island*" (Acts 27:20-26).

For the Writing of the Scriptures

"*For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power*" (Ephesians 3:1-7).

Operations

Here are a few areas of application where the gift of the word of wisdom can be useful. This is not a complete list.

1) Counseling people and helping identify root causes and receive God's solution.
2) Ministry of the Word, knowing what Word to bring, when and how to communicate this.
3) Interpreting dreams.
4) Solving business/workplace problems.
5) Finding solutions to difficult life situations (e.g., legal, real-estate disputes, family matters, etc.).
6) Deciding about the future, what course of action (strategy) to take and how to prepare for it.
7) Coming up with a design in any field.
8) Creating a solution in any field.
9) Forecasting and knowing how financial and other markets are going to change and how to prepare for such changes.

How A Word Of Wisdom Is Received

The Holy Spirit can use any of our spirit senses to communicate a word of wisdom to us. Here is a short list. Keep in mind that many of these (and other ways) could work in combination and you need to put these together and communicate clearly what you are receiving.

A Quickening of Scripture

The Holy Spirit can quicken a verse or portion of Scripture and bring out insights that you have not seen before and make it relevant to the situation that needs to be addressed.

A Knowing Inside

Through your spirit sense of hearing, the Holy Spirit imparts a word, a sentence, or a "download" of a large amount of information into your spirit. You just know and you begin to speak.

You See a Word, Words, or Sentences

There are times the Holy Spirit gives you a word or a series of words or sentences. You

"see" these words through the eyes of your spirit. For example, when praying over a person you may see the words "nursing" concerning their future or area of study that they should prepare for.

Inspired, Unpremeditated Speaking

There could be times you start speaking and you sense an inspiration, and you start speaking and saying things that you have not previously thought of. Thoughts and ideas keep coming as you keep speaking and once it is all done, you have revealed the mind of God for the situation or revealed the meaning of a dream.

Dreams or Visions

Words of wisdom can also be revealed through dreams or visions. You wake up and realize you have had a dream where you receive clear instruction on what God wants you to do or a solution to a problem. Visions can come any time, either when you are awake or asleep. In visions, you see what God wants you to do or what is about to happen so you can prepare for the right course of action. Angels also appear in dreams and visions bringing messages.

Angel Messengers

We see angels appearing to Daniel, Joseph, and Paul and many others bringing messages on what to do, how to escape or come out of trouble, etc.

How To Share A Word of Wisdom

Do not Force, Compel, or Demand Action

When sharing a word of wisdom to someone else that requires them to take a course of action (example about their future, about their education, career, etc.) communicate it to them with humility and submission, and then encourage them to seek God personally, and do whatever God directs them to do. Do not force, compel, or demand that they do what you have shared with them.

Clarify and Encourage Perseverance and Diligence that Is Required

Every God-idea requires skillful execution. A word of wisdom must be executed with wisdom, diligence, and hard work. So even when you submit a word of wisdom that will solve a problem, encourage people to follow through, persevere and work at it. Just because you released a word of wisdom from God to solve their problem, does not imply

that they can be reckless, lazy, and just expect things to fall in place without them working on things.

No Pressure to Convince Others to Agree

Sometimes a word of wisdom would need collective approval or agreement from several others on a team, or approval from those in authority over you. Respect others involvement in the matter. Let God move on their hearts to recognize that what you have shared is a good solution or the right course of action. You have done your part in releasing what you received. Do not feel pressured or responsible for convincing others. Do not judge, bad-mouth, or speak ill of others if they do not take on what you communicated.

Some Other Thoughts

Just because we can release the gift of the word of wisdom does not mean we should not learn, educate ourselves, be trained, and equipped. Also don't pretend you have all wisdom and do not need to receive counsel, instruction, teaching, and correction from others.

11. Word Of Knowledge

Definition

The gift of the word of knowledge is a supernatural impartation of a piece of divine knowledge that reveals facts of things past or present.

A Word of Knowledge

- serves to let the individual (or individuals) know that God knows them personally and loves them deeply.
- informs us about what God is doing. Example, a word of knowledge about healing reveals the condition (or conditions) God is healing at that moment.
- reveals problems or situations from the past that God is addressing to resolve, heal, etc.
- reveals events, actions of people that are currently happening so that we can make an appropriate response.
- and much more.

A word is part of a sentence. This is called the gift of the word of knowledge and hence, it is a small piece of God's infinite knowledge that He supernaturally imparts to us to accomplish a specific purpose.

The gift of the word of knowledge is not dependent on any information you already know. It is not naturally acquired information or knowledge.

The following are a few biblical examples.

Biblical Examples: Old Testament

Samuel and Saul's donkeys

Saul had spent a couple of days searching for his father's lost donkeys. He finally decides to go to a seer to get help and comes to Samuel. Samuel informs Saul *"But as for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not be anxious about them, for they have been found"* (1 Samuel 9:20).

Elisha and Gehazi

Gehazi, Elisha's servant lied to Naaman and got a lot of goods from Naaman for himself and hid them in his home. "*Now he went in and stood before his master. Elisha said to him, "Where did you go, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant did not go anywhere." Then he said to him, "Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants? Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow*" (2 Kings 5:25-27).

Elisha Revealing the Battle Plans of the King of Syria

"*Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place." And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice. Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?" And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom*" (2 Kings 6:8-12).

Daniel Revealing King's Dreams

"*Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart*" (Daniel 2:27-30).

Ezekiel Being Transported in Visions and in the Spirit to See Things that Were Happening

"*He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy. And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the plain. Then He said to me, "Son of man, lift your eyes now toward the north." So I lifted my eyes toward the north, and there, north of the altar gate, was this image of jealousy in the entrance. Furthermore He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great*

abominations that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away from My sanctuary? Now turn again, you will see greater abominations" (Ezekiel 8:3-6. See also Ezekiel 8:7-17; Ezekiel 11:1-4; Ezekiel 11:24-25; Ezekiel 37:1-4).

Biblical Examples: New Testament

Jesus Meeting Nathanael

"*Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel*!" (John 1:47-49).

Jesus Revealing a Bit of the Samaritan Woman's Past

"Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"" (John4:16-19,28-29).

Jesus Sending His Disciples to Bring a Donkey

"*When He had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. And it came to pass, when He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples, saying, "Go into the village opposite you, whereas you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here. And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing it? 'Thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of it.' "So those who were sent went their way and found it just as He had said to them*" (Luke19:28-32).

Peter, Ananias, and Sapphira

Peter knew the amount at which they sold the land and that they had held back a part of the money (Acts 5:1-11).

Ananias Sent to Minister to Saul

The Lord revealed to Ananias Saul's address and the vision Saul had seen. "Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said*, "Here I am, Lord." So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight,*

and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight" (Acts 9:10-12).

Cornelius Having an Angel Appear in a Vision and Give Him Name, City, Address

"*There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!" And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do*" (Acts 10:1-6).

Paul's Revelation of the Last Supper

Though Paul was not present there, he received by revelation details of what took place, what was spoken, etc. "*For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me*"" (1 Corinthians 11:23-25).

Operations

Here are a few areas of application where the gift of the word of knowledge can be useful. This is not a complete list.

1) Letting people feel known and loved by God.
2) Helping solve problems (finding what is lost, revealing what is causing the loss, example the people who are embezzling money).
3) Bringing conviction and repentance by lovingly addressing areas of sin and compromise.
4) Revealing something that happened in the past that is affecting their present, so we know how to resolve the problem.
5) Revealing what God is doing, when ministering along with other gifts, e.g., gifts of healing, working of miracles.

How A Word Of Knowledge Is Received

The Holy Spirit can use any of our spirit senses to communicate a word of knowledge to us.

Here are some of the most common ways believers experience receiving words of knowledge. God may use new and creative ways to speak to you. The Holy Spirit can also use external things to speak a word of knowledge to us. Keep in mind that many of these (and other ways) could work in combination and you need to put these together and communicate clearly what you are receiving.

Hearing or Seeing Words, Sentences, or Information

You may see a word, words, or sentences coming up from your spirit into your mind. Sometimes these may even seem to be external—words that you may see "upon" a person, or "written" on their face, or behind them, etc. You may "hear" a word or sentence or just receive information coming out of your spirit.

An Inner Impression

You may receive something through your spirit sense of feeling about a particular physical condition or a situation in life (e.g., financial problem, divorce, suicide, etc.).

Pictures and Images

You may get a picture or a sequence of pictures or even a streaming visual (like a movie) revealing various physical conditions God wants to heal or situations God wants to address. For example, you may see a body part (e.g., heart, elbow, wrist, neck) or you may see a part of an outline of a body highlighted, etc. You may see any other object, place, or life situation (e.g., office representing workplace, field, car accident, etc.). You may see letters formed together to give you the names of people, numbers coming together to give you address, dates of birth, etc.

Highlighting a Scenario from Scripture to Describe a Present Situation

Sometimes the Spirit of God may highlight an incident from Scripture and point to that as applicable when ministering to an individual or group. Example, Joseph being falsely accused as being a parallel to what someone may be going through right now in their life.

Physical Sensations or Experience

You may have a sharp pain in some part of your body or a sensation (tingling, burning, throbbing, etc.). This is just God alerting to you that He is healing problems in that part of the body. Be careful that your feeling is not caused by a condition in your own body. For instance, if you often have pain in your left ear, you would not give that as a word of knowledge even if you get that pain during a meeting.

Some ministers share how at times their own physical body momentarily experiences the same physical ailment that another person has, e.g., a growth may momentarily appear on a part of their body and it then disappears, or their vision temporarily blurs, or their ear temporarily closes up. They then call out these conditions in people they are ministering to.

Inspired Utterance

While talking or praying or standing with someone, unpremeditated words may tumble out of your mouth relating to a life situation, problem or even health conditions.

Dreams and Visions

You may have a dream or vision in which you see yourself saying or doing things, or you see God ministering to certain kinds of people, etc. This is another way God sets you up to do what you saw in your dream or night vision. You may also have a vision where you see things from the past and you can narrate what happened. You can also have a vision where you travel in the spirit (geographically, back in time or in the present time) to see people and places and events as they happen (or happened) and you narrate what you see.

Angel Messengers

Angels can also bring us specific information from God. "*But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life*" (Acts 5:19-20). "*Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.*" This is desert"" (Act 8:26).

Personal Experience or Situation

There are times God reminds you about your own personal experience or about another individual you know and uses that to give you information about the person you are ministering to.

Inspired Writing

You may be inspired as you write or journal and these may be used later to minister specific words to people.

Divine Setups

God can use an unusual situation, a signpost or billboard that you see, a car sticker that has a message, etc., to alert you to something He wants to say to you. God can use the ordinary, mundane things of life to get your attention and give you a message. However, don't read

something into everything that happens. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and listen when He speaks. But don't simply imagine or conjure things up, because that will only make you "spooky" and "weird."

New, Personal, and Creative Ways

It is impossible to put God in a box of only a few ways which He can speak. Always be open to new ways that He is speaking to you.

How To Share A Word Of Knowledge

How we say what we say is important. Here are some practical guidelines in sharing a word of knowledge.

Be Loving and Gentle in What You Share

Let people be comfortable, feel loved and drawn into meeting Jesus, rather than being frightened, intimidated, or even put off, when you approach them with a word of knowledge. So instead of saying something like, "God just spoke to me from heaven and showed me that you have a problem in your lower back," you can ask them lovingly: "Does your lower back hurt?" Once they say, "Yes," you can then offer to pray for them. Once they are healed, they are very likely to ask you how you knew. That would be a great time to talk to them about Jesus.

Be Clear and Specific as What Is Being Revealed to You

The more specific the word, the more it builds faith in you and in the other person. As you are speaking, keep praying, asking God for more details and keep watching.

Validate Whenever Possible

You can ask the person if what you have shared is correct. In a gathering you can ask for a show of hands as an indication if one or more people relate to what you have shared. Keep in mind that sometimes people may feel shy or afraid and may not respond. Don't be discouraged if no one responds. Be faithful in stepping out.

Take Risks Out of Love for People

Giving words of knowledge is really taking a risk. But do it anyway. Don't let fear of people, intimidation or fear of failure hold you back. Do everything out of love.

It's Ok to Make Mistakes. Learn and Keep Pressing In

Remember we are all learning to hear from the Holy Spirit and we will make mistakes. Keep learning. Keep pressing in for more accuracy, more details. The problem is not with God or with His gift, but with us as we try to learn how to receive from Him.

12. Discerning Of Spirits

Definition

The gift of discerning of spirits is the ability to supernaturally see (perceive, know, sense) either into the spirits of people or into the spirit realm. This helps us in several ways, including:

- ✓ to determine what is of God and what is not of God,
- ✓ to discern the spirits of people, their motives, and intents,
- ✓ to see what the Lord is doing, activity of angels, etc.,
- ✓ to see what satan is scheming and doing, what kinds of spirits are troubling a person, etc.
- ✓ and much more.

The gift of discerning of spirits is different from spiritual discernment. Spiritual discernment, like wisdom, comes through spiritual maturity and one's experience with God. However, the gift of discerning of spirits is given at a particular point in time to perceive into the spirit realm. The gift of discerning of spirits is available to all believers regardless of their spiritual maturity.

The gift of discerning of spirits is different from being suspicious, critical, and judgmental. Some people have a suspicious, critical, or judgmental bent. They tend to view all of life and everyone around them through these lenses. This is not the gift of discerning of spirits.

Here are a few biblical examples.

Biblical Examples: Old Testament

Elisha's Servant's Eyes Opened to See

"*And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are*

more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (2 Kings 6:15-17).

Biblical Examples: New Testament

Jesus Revealing the Kind of Man Nathanael Was

"Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (John 1:47-49).

Jesus Knowing Their Thoughts

When Jesus healed the paralytic (Matthew 9:1-7) the Scripture records: "*But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts*?" (Vs 4).

Jesus and Peter—Identifying the Source of Information

The Lord Jesus identified the real source of Peter's information in his speaking. In one instant, Peter received revelation from the Father in heaven on who Jesus is (Matthew 16:16-17), and in another instant Peter was speaking what the devil inspired, dissuading Jesus from going to the Cross (Matthew 16:22-23).

Jesus Knew that There Was a Spirit of Infirmity that Bound a Woman

"*Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God*" (Luke 13:10-13).

Jesus Knew satan's Schemes

The Lord Jesus knew what the devil was planning to do in the spirit realm. He prayed for Peter and warned him in advance. "And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren" (Luke22:31-32).

Operations

Here are a few areas of application where the gift of the discerning of spirits can be useful. This is not a complete list.

1) Recognizing evil spirits as the real source of the problem when ministering to people.

A familiar spirit is a spirit that has become "familiar" with a person, a place, or a thing. As a result they have taken up "residence" there and exert their influence. In a person, the spirits affect lifestyle, moods, thought patterns, behavioral patterns and prevent change in that person's life. Deliverance needs to take place and the entry points must be closed by repentance (not providing opportunities, choosing an opposite lifestyle, etc.).

2) During deliverance, knowing if there are more evil spirits that are hiding and need to be cast out.
3) Recognizing true and false ministers, spirit of truth and spirit of error in teaching.
4) Recognizing the real intent in people's hearts and being able to see past the outward appearance and pretense.
5) Recognizing what God is doing in the spirit realm and positioning yourself accordingly.
6) Recognizing angels and what they are doing.
7) Recognizing satan's plans and counteracting them through prayer and warfare.

How Discerning Of Spirits Is Received

The Holy Spirit can use any of our spirit senses to release the gift of the discerning of spirits. Here are some ways.

A Check in Your Spirit

You may receive a check, an uneasy feeling in your spirit. You realize that God is alerting you that something is not right, and you need to act. You then pray and ask God to show you why you feel that way and what He wants you to do.

A Sense of Joy and Fellowship in the Spirit

There are times when you just sense a special connection, a feeling of "*righteousness, peace and joy*" in the Holy Spirit when interacting with someone. You also get a sense in your spirit of the nature of their spirit (the kind of person they are). God is helping you know the kind of people they are and what He would want you to do with them for His Kingdom purposes.

A Knowing that a Certain Kind of Spirit Is Operating

God can release a knowing in your spirit, about the kind of evil spirits that are operating or influencing a person. You just know—God has revealed this to your spirit. You can now call these wicked spirits by name and destroy what they are doing using the authority of Jesus name and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A Word or Words About Different Kinds of Spirits Operating

There are times, when words (names, characteristics, functions) just come up in your spirit that identify the kinds of evil spirits that are operating. You can now take authority over these wicked spirits and destroy what they are doing.

A Visual that Shows what Is Happening in the Spirit Realm

The Holy Spirit can show you a visual (vision) of things that are happening. The eyes of your spirit see this, perhaps a sequence of events unfolding, where you see things happening in the spirit realm, where the work of angels and demons and their influence over people concerned is revealed. You then know how to minister to the individual(s) and what to do to effect change in their lives by dealing with what is happening in the spirit realm.

A Sudden Awareness of the Spirit Realm

Your spirit suddenly becomes aware of things happening in the spirit realm around you. You recognize the activity of angels, or the evil schemes of the enemy. God then wants you to respond accordingly. Either thank Him and welcome the ministry of His angels sent to minister to you, or to take authority over evil spirits, rebuke and destroy what they are attempting to do.

Hearing What Is Happening in the Spirit Realm

Your spirit "hears" what is happening in the spirit realm—action, movement, conversations, etc. For example, "*Then the Philistines went up once again and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. Therefore David inquired of the LORD, and He said, "You shall not go up; circle around behind them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall advance quickly. For then the LORD will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines." And David did so, as the LORD commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer*" (2 Samuel 5:22-25).

Through dreams

God can reveal ahead of time things that are happening in the spirit realm through dreams. So you are prepared to take action and do what is necessary.

Eyes of Your spirit Opened to See what Is Happening

The Holy Spirit opens your eyes to see. It is as though your spirit man is looking out through your natural eyes but seeing beyond the natural into the spirit realm.

Transportation in the spirit Realm

God can enable you to travel in the spirit in visions or spirit- transportation to show you activity in the spirit-realm over an individual, a family, a group of people or a city, etc.

Physical Feeling in the Hand

Sometimes you may have certain sensations (e.g., heat, fire, tingling, etc.) in your hand which God will use to indicate to you the presence of an evil spirit. Some ministers of God have shared God working in their ministries in such manner.

Through the spirit Sense of Smell and Taste

As we mentioned in an earlier chapter, God will cause you to recognize a particular taste/smell and then give you specific understanding on what He is communicating. Pleasant tastes/smells can be used to indicate God's pleasure in what we are doing, God is present; God's anointing is at work; God is moving to bring healing; God is moving to bring comfort; God is moving to meet a certain kind of need, etc. Unpleasant tastes/smells can be a warning to indicate to you to be careful of what is happening (e.g., a false doctrine being preached, a false prophet deceiving the people, demonic power, seducing spirits, unclean spirits at work, etc.), for you to get out of the situation (e.g., leave now, you don't need to be here, do not interact with these people, etc.).

How To Use Or Release What Is Received Through Discerning Of Spirits

Usually, the gift of the discerning of spirits will require you to act; do something in response to what the Holy Spirit is revealing to you. Here is a short representative list of how information received through the discerning of spirits is used.

You May Have to Minister Deliverance to the Individual

If you know of the kinds of spirits that need to be dealt with, call these wicked spirits by

name, cast them out and destroy what they are doing using the authority of Jesus name and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Also remain sensitive to the Spirit to ensure that all the wicked spirits have left the individual so that the deliverance is complete.

You may Need to Take Authority over the Kinds of Spirits Operating

If the Spirit of God has revealed that certain kinds of spirits are operating in a particular situation or over a group of people, then take authority over those spirits. Stop their operation in that situation. Destroy their works in Jesus' name. Cast out their evil influence. Speak the Word of God over the situation or people. Release the influence of the Kingdom of God into that situation.

You may Need to Stop Something from Progressing Further

If the Spirit of God reveals the intent, plan, scheme, or strategy of the enemy, then take action and prevent them from going ahead with their efforts. Declare confusion in the camp of the enemy. Bind and nullify their efforts. Disperse them using the authority of Jesus' name. Speak God's Word, release Kingdom influence and ask God for a release of His angels to do their work in the given situation.

Pray Over What God Shows You

Sometimes God alerts us to what is happening to get us to pray in advance for that matter and protect people involved. The Lord Jesus praying for Peter and for his faith to be restored is an example (Luke 22:31-32).

Prepare and Position Yourself

God may reveal what is about to happen in the spirit realm so that you can prepare and position yourself to take action in the natural. A wonderful example is a particular incident in the life of king David, where he heard the sound of marching—action taking place in the spirit realm, then he moved out in the natural. "*Then the Philistines went up once again and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. Therefore David inquired of the LORD, and He said, "You shall not go up; circle around behind them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall advance quickly. For then the LORD will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines." And David did so, as the LORD commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer*" (2 Samuel 5:22-25).

You May Need to Avoid Further Interaction with the People you've Been Alerted to

If God reveals the evil intent in people's hearts then you may need to avoid further

interaction with them so that you keep yourself away from getting entangled with them.

You may Need to Walk Away from Being in the Company of Certain People

Sometimes you may need to step away from a group of people, if the Spirit of God alerts you that you do not need to be there because of what is being said and done and the wrong spirits operating in that situation.

Refuse to Agree with a "Prophetic" Word Given from a Wrong Source (Evil Spirit)

Sometimes when a person gives a "prophetic" word but is actually operating under the influence of a wrong spirit (familiar spirit, spirit of fear, witchcraft, control, etc.) then when the Spirit of God alerts you to that, refuse to agree and refuse to receive that "prophetic" word. You reject that word and refuse to give it any place or influence in your life.

13. Gifts Of Healing

Definition

The "gifts of healing" is a supernatural work of God resulting in the physical or emotional healing of a sick person.

The gifts of healings are not the same as the work of a medical doctor which is based on healing through use of medicine.

Problems in the body and mind can be caused due to a variety of reasons, and in some situations multiple factors could be at work: birth defects, genetic problems, neglect or abuse of one's health, accidents or injuries, biological/physiological problems, as well as demonic spirits at work.

A double plural is used in the NKJV "gifts," "healings" to indicate multiplicity (healings of all kinds of sicknesses) and diversity (many ways through which supernatural healing can be released or administered).

There are many ways that God heals, one of which is through the gifts of healings. If we are to broadly categorize how supernatural healings take place, we could mention three possible categories:

(A) Through personal faith in God and His Word
(B) Through the healing anointing and gifts of healing
(C) Through God's presence and glory.

THROUGH PERSONAL FAITH	THROUGH THE HEALING ANOINTING AND GIFTS OF HEALING	THROUGH GOD'S PRESENCE AND GLORY
Here an individual believes God's Word and receives through their personal faith, as in Mark 11:22-24	Here the healing anointing and gifts of healing operate through an individual and healing is administered to the sick	God moves independent of people, sovereignly, and people get healed. People receive by faith, as well as those who do not necessarily have faith are also healed.
The minister teaches the Word, helps build faith in people and ministers to people in faith. The mutual faith receives God's healing for the individual.	In most cases the sick will also be required to have faith. However, there are exceptions and people who do not have faith are also healed sovereignly, at times.	God's presence and glory is often welcomed through intense praise and worship, and a high sense of expectancy.

We must learn to minister healing in all three ways and move with God as He desires to move. All of us as believers must know how to receive our own healing and maintain our wholeness through personal faith in God and His Word.

In gifts of healings, very often the recipient may not be exercising active faith—and yet they get healed when gifts of healings are released through the person ministering to them.

There are numerous examples of supernatural healing throughout Scripture. For a more detailed study on this, please see the free APC book, "Ministering Healing And Deliverance" available for download from apcwo.org/books.

Here are a few examples.

Biblical Examples: Old Testament

Healing of Abimelech's Wife and Servants from Barrenness

Abraham prayed for Abimelech, his wife and maid servants. Then they bore children (Genesis 20:17).

God Revealed Himself as the Healer of His People

After the Exodus from Egypt, throughout their journey through the wilderness, the people were preserved and kept in good health. God made a covenant to His people to be their Healer and revealed His covenant name: Jehovah-Rapha (Exodus 15:26). What is very interesting is that the Bible records that there was not even one sick person among all their tribes, as long as they walked in obedience to Him.

Psalm 105:37
He also brought them out with silver and gold, And there was none feeble among His tribes.

Nehemiah 9:21
Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness; They lacked nothing; Their clothes did not wear out And their feet did not swell.

Psalm 107:19-20
19 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, And He saved them out of their distresses.
20 He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.

Healing of Naaman the Leper

Naaman acted on the word of the prophet and received healing. "*And Elisha sent a*

messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So, he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean" (2 Kings5:10-14).

Healing of King Hezekiah

God sent the prophet Isaiah to minister healing to king Hezekiah and extend his life by fifteen years. What is interesting is that in this case, God used a lump of figs as an act of faith that would help Hezekiah receive his healing. "*Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David."' " Then Isaiah said, "Take a lump of figs." So they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered*" (2 Kings 20:5-7)

Biblical Examples: New Testament

Ministry of Jesus

The four Gospels record many instances of individuals and multitudes receiving healing through the ministry of Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus ministered under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. ALL who came to Him in faith received their healing and deliverance. There were those who did not necessarily have faith, but some of them were also ministered to and were healed such as the man by the pool of Bethesda (John 5) or the healing of the man born blind in John 9. The Lord Jesus ministered in a variety of ways. He laid hands on people. People touched Him. He spoke a word of command. He declared people healed and told them to go home in faith. He told people to do something they would not be able to do. He did some unusual things like touch people with His spit or make clay with His spit and apply it on blind eyes, etc. The Lord Jesus healed all kinds of sicknesses and diseases.

Matthew 11:4-5
4 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see:
5 The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and

the poor have the gospel preached to them.
John 20:30-31 (See also John 21:25).
30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;
31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

The Early Church

The apostles and believers in the Early Church ministered healings and deliverance to many. Some of these specific healings are recorded for us. A man born lame and in that condition for forty years was instantly healed (Acts 3). They prayed for God to stretch out His hand to heal and for signs and wonders to be done in the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 4:29-30). We see multitudes come into Jerusalem bringing sick people and God working through Peter's shadow to heal and deliver every one of them (Acts 5:14-16). When believers were scattered into other cities due to persecution, they went and preached Christ everywhere and healings and miracles accompanied them (Acts 8:6-7; Acts 11:21). Healings and miracles were important in apostolic work and in the planting of new churches. God worked unusual healings and miracles through Paul. When handkerchiefs and aprons were taken from him to the sick they were healed and delivered (Acts 19:11-12). The Church knew that taking part in the Lord's table was a cup of blessing that brought healing and longevity (1 Corinthians 11:17-34). Anyone sick could call for the elders of the church to pray the prayer of faith to be healed (James 5:14-15).

Operations

The gifts of healing serve to restore physical and emotional wholeness and well-being to a person. While many healings are immediate and instantaneous, we also celebrate, when healing takes place over time.

How The Holy Spirit Initiates The Release Of The Gifts of Healing

A Knowing of What God Is Doing

Jesus saw what the Father was doing and He did likewise (John 5:19). Therefore He healed the man at the pool of Bethesda. Often when ministering in a service or when speaking/ministering at an individual level you have a knowing that God desires to heal or heal specific conditions.

Through Words of Knowledge

When ministering in a service or when speaking with individuals God reveals through words of knowledge specific conditions that He desires to heal. You call out these words

of knowledge which could be specific conditions or specific areas in the body that God is touching at that moment. This builds faith and people receive their healing.

Recognition of God's Healing Presence and Anointing

During a service, you are aware of God's healing presence and the healing anointing. The power of the Lord is present to heal (Luke 5:17). You begin to minister accordingly. People tap into the anointing by faith, like the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment (Mark 5:25-34) or the multitudes who touched Jesus and were healed (Luke 6:19).

People Make a Demand through Expectation and Faith

God responds to the expectation and faith in people's hearts. So, when people look to God with expectation and faith and come to you as a human vessel to help minister to them, God releases gifts of healing to meet their need. You see that they have faith to be healed and God moves in response to their faith.

How To Release Gifts of Healing

Declare What You See God Doing

When you know in your spirit that God is moving among a group of people or on an individual to bring healing and deliverance, you declare what God is showing you in your spirit. This quickens faith in people's hearts and God confirms what He is showing you by releasing those specific gifts of healings and miracles. Peter recognized what God was doing for Aeneas and declared what Jesus was doing for him: "*Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord"* (Acts 9:32-35).

Release Words of Knowledge

You call out the words of knowledge that the Spirit of God is giving you. People receive what you are saying and they connect with God through faith and receive what God is releasing through gifts of healing.

Through Faith and Prayer

There are times you simply lay hands on people and minister to them in prayer, anointing with oil or commanding healing. These are also times when the Holy Spirit releases gifts

of healings to make people whole.

Getting People to Act their Faith

While Paul was preaching, faith was birthed in the heart of this crippled man. Paul recognized what God was doing in his heart and commanded him to act his faith: "*And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked"* (Acts 14:8-10).

Don't get too picky on whether it was a gift of healing or whether it was due to your faith or the other person's faith or if it was God moving sovereignly by His presence and glory. God's desire and our desire is to see the sick healed. So, let's just rejoice in the fact that the person was healed and give all the glory to God.

14. Working Of Miracles

Definition

The gift of the working of miracles is the supernatural intervention into the course of nature, life situations, events, and human ability, resulting in what can only be described as a miracle. This can include miraculous supply, creative healings (example: organs surgically removed are supernaturally restored, implants disappear, etc), overriding natural laws and supernatural happenings or turnaround of events. The result of the miracle is to meet the needs of people, turn the lost to the Lord and glorify God.

The Bible is a book of God working miracles among men. Miracles abound both in the Old and New Testaments. God has not changed, has not lost His power, and still works miracles. The gift of the working of miracles is the Holy Spirit releasing His miracle working power through the believer.

Here are a few of the miracles we see recorded in Scripture.

Biblical Examples: Old Testament

Abraham and Sarah having Isaac in their old age in spite of Sarah being barren.

Moses

- Miracles in Egypt
- The parting of the Red sea
- Turning bitter waters sweet
- Manna and quail delivered daily
- Water out of a rock

Joshua

- Parting of the river Jordan
- The walls of Jericho falling
- The sun and moon standing still for a whole day
- Samson's supernaturally empowered physical strength

Elijah

- Bread and meat delivered twice daily by ravens for many days
- Multiplying flour and oil for the widow at Zarephath
- Raising the widow's son from the dead
- Fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice
- Rain after three years of drought
- Running faster than a chariot of horses
- Sustained for 40 days by one meal of cake and water provided by an angel
- Parting of the River Jordan
- Elisha
- Parting of the River Jordan
- Healing of waters of Jericho
- Multiplying of a jar of oil to cancel debt for a widow
- Miracle child for a barren Shunammite woman
- Raising of the Shunammite woman's dead child
- Purifying of the deadly poisonous stew
- Twenty loaves of bread multiplied to feed a hundred men
- Naaman healed of leprosy
- Making an axe head float
- A dead man raised to life after his body touched Elisha's bones

Isaiah

- The shadow of the sun moving back 10 degrees

Biblical Examples: New Testament

Jesus

- Turning water to wine
- Walking through a boisterous mob with no harm
- Multiplying loaves and fish to feed thousands
- Calming of the storm
- Walking on the water
- Miraculous catch of fish
- Coin in the mouth of a fish
- Making the maimed whole Peter's shadow healing people

Paul

- Striking Elymas the sorcerer blind for a season
- Unusual miracles through handkerchiefs and aprons to heal and deliver people

- No harm from a snake bite on the island of Malta

Operations

As we mentioned earlier, the result of the miracle is to meet the needs of people, turn the lost to the Lord and glorify Jesus Christ.

Signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit 'bear witness' to the message preached.

Hebrews 2:3-4
3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,
4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

God can and will do all kinds of miracles, even things not yet seen or heard of. So, we should not limit God to the kinds of miracles He would do amongst us.

How The Gift Of The Working Of Miracles Is Received

The operation of the gift of the working of miracles is very similar to the gifts of healing:

A Knowing of What God is doing

Often when ministering in a service or when speaking/ ministering at an individual level you have a knowing that God desires to release specific miracles.

Through Words of Knowledge

God reveals specific miracles that He wants to release. You call these out as words of knowledge. These words of knowledge describe specific situations in the individual's life that God is turning around. This builds faith and people receive their miracles.

Recognition of God's Miracle-Working Presence and Anointing

During a service you are aware of God's miracle-working power and miracle anointing. You begin to minister accordingly. People act in response to what God is doing and receive their miracles.

People Make a Demand through Expectation and Faith

People come with expectation and faith desiring for God to intervene in their life situation and God responds to their faith and releases the working of miracles for them.

How To Release The Gift Of The Working Of Miracles

Releasing the gift of the working of miracles is like releasing gifts of healing:

Declare What You See God Doing and Encourage People to Act on it

When the Holy Spirit reveals the miracle(s) He is going to work, you just declare it. Tell people to act in accordance with it. For example, Jesus said things like fill these water pots with water, then take and serve the people. Or He took the five loaves and two fish, gave thanks, and had His disciples start distributing to the people. He told Peter to go catch a fish and look in the fish's mouth to find a coin.

Release Words of Knowledge on the Kinds of Miracles God Is Doing

Through words of knowledge the Holy Spirit will reveal specifics about situations that individuals are going through and what God will do to turn those situations around. You release those words of knowledge clearly. People will be encouraged and receive by faith and experience God's working of miracles in their lives.

Through Faith and Prayer Release the Miracle Power of God

You pray with people concerning their specific situation and using the authority given to us as believers, you decree and release into their situations, God's miracle working power. The person ministering/releasing the working of miracles and the person receiving must move in faith and miracles will take place.

Galatians 3:5
Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Getting People to Act Their Faith

We find in Scripture, often God gave people specific instructions and required them to follow those instructions in faith. When people acted on those instructions, miracles happened. God still moves in a similar manner today. The Spirit of God will lead you to share specific instructions and when acted upon people receive a working of miracles in their life situation.

We cannot put God into a box and restrict or limit what kind of miracles God will do. God can and will do anything He chooses and pleases. "*But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases" (Psalm 115:3). There is nothing impossible with Him or too difficult for Him. "'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You"* (Jeremiah 32:17). We must just be willing to move with Him and declare what He reveals to us.

15. Gift Of Faith

Definition

The gift of faith is the supernatural impartation of faith into the heart of a believer to trust God for a miracle in a particular situation or at a given moment of time. The gift of faith usually undergirds and operates with the gifts of healings and the gift of the working of miracles to get the job done.

The gift of faith is different from nurtured or developed faith, which a person has developed in God over a period (Romans 12:3; 2 Thessalonians 1:3). The gift of faith is usually momentary (for a specific time and situation), while your personal faith in God is what you have nurtured over time in a specific area of life. Hence, the declaration made under the operation of the gift of faith is different from declaring your personal faith in the Word of God.

The gift of faith is not presumption. It is not assuming that God will do something for you, just because you wish for it.

In Scripture, whenever we see unusual demonstrations of faith and miracles, it would be safe to state that there must have been a supernatural infusion of faith into the heart of the individual(s) involved to believe God for that miracle to take place.

Here are a few examples from Scripture.

Biblical Examples: Old Testament

Moses and the Miracles in Egypt and Through the Wilderness

All the miracles that Moses did must have been the result of supernatural faith being infused into his heart to do what God had told him to do. Each time he received a specific word from God, his heart must have been filled with faith beyond any doubt that the miracle will take place. He stretched out the rod of God knowing full well that what God had said was about to take place before his eyes. And it did, always.

Joshua and the Sun Standing Still

This miracle had no precedent. It had never been done before. Not even through Moses. And yet on that day, Joshua's heart must have been supernaturally filled with boldness, courage, and faith to do what he did. "*Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up*

the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." So, the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel" (Joshua 10:12-14).

Biblical Examples: New Testament

We see several recorded instances in the New Testament both through the ministry of the Lord Jesus and the disciples, of the dead being raised, cripple and paralytics made whole and unusual miracles. In all these cases, it is safe to assume that supernatural faith was infused into the hearts of those ministering, resulting in the healing or miracle.

Operations

The gift of faith is a supernatural infusion of faith into our hearts at a given moment of time. The gift of faith usually undergirds and operates along with the gifts of healings and the gift of the working of miracles. The gift of faith undergirds the other gifts causing us to go into realms where we would not often go.

How The Holy Spirit Imparts The Gift Of Faith

Gift of Faith and Other Revelatory Gifts

We all prophesy and move in the revelatory gifts (word of knowledge, word of wisdom, prophecy, discerning of spirits) in proportion to our faith (Romans 12:6). So, we are comfortable operating at a certain level of revelatory detail. However, with the gift of faith operating along with these revelatory gifts, we move at a totally new level ministering at a greater level of detail, accuracy, and specifics than what we are normally accustomed to. We permit the Holy Spirit to take us into new realms in the operation of the revelatory gifts.

Gift of Faith and Gifts of Healings

There are several ways to minister healing and we most often do so through faith in God's Word. However, when the supernatural gift of faith fills our heart, at that specific instant of time for a specific healing to take place, we speak and act with boldness beyond what we are normally accustomed to, to get the work done.

Gift of Faith and Workings of Miracles

As believers, we can all exercise authority and dominion over life situations using faith in God's Word and based on His promises. God works in response to our faith in such matters. The gift of faith undergirding the gift of the workings of miracles causes us to speak and declare things that we would not dare to consider under normal circumstances. The power of God is displayed and unusual miracles take place.

How To Release The Gift Of Faith

As we see in the miracles recorded in Scripture, people spoke boldly and acted boldly in accordance with the faith that had been infused into their hearts. So, when you recognize the gift of faith being released, supernatural faith filling your heart, declare and speak boldly what God is revealing. Act boldly in accordance with what God is speaking. This causes the gift of faith to be released and the work of God to take place. Jesus will be glorified!

16. Developing In The Gifts Of The Spirit

In this chapter, we discuss some practical steps which if exercised consistently, will help us develop in the gifts of the Spirit.

Always Be Motivated By Love

1 Corinthians 12:31
But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 14:1
Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

Do everything out of love for people and love for God. Walk in love, desire spiritual gifts, step out in faith.

Do not attempt to flow in the gifts of the Spirit out of wrong motivations, e.g., need for recognition, need to self-affirmation, pride, competition with others, etc.

Earnestly Desire The Gifts Of The Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:31
But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 14:1,12,39,40
1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.
12 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.
39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.
40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

God desires for every believer to be manifesting the gifts of the Spirit. Desire the gifts of the Spirit in everyday life. Remember the gifts of the Spirit can be manifested anywhere at any time: in your home, in your school/college/workplace, any time you are ministering to people. Desire for the manifestations of the Spirit. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to release all of the gifts. If you sense specific gifts are needed to meet a specific need, then desire those specific gifts of the Spirit.

Stir Up The Gifts Of God In You

1 Timothy 4:14
Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the

eldership.
1 Timothy 1:6-7
6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Gifts lie dormant because of slothfulness, fear/doubt, neglect, etc. Stir up the gifts of God in you by praying in tongues. Stir up the gifts by asking God for a manifestation of the gifts through your life. Stir up the gifts by making a demand—putting yourself in situations where you need the gifts of the Spirit to meet the needs of people. Stay strong in your spiritual life all the time. You do this by maintaining a consistent life of communion and intimacy with God through being in His Word, prayer, and personal obedience.

Stay Tuned In

Galatians 5:25
If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

To walk in the Spirit is to walk in step with the Spirit. Always walk in a manner that you are tuned in to the Spirit. Stay alert, tuned in and listening to the Holy Spirit. Expect the Spirit to speak, move on you, lead you, guide you, etc. Maintain constant communion with the Holy Spirit. Stay away from sin and ungodliness.

Stay Calm And Rested

Isaiah 11:2
The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

Numbers 11:25-26
25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again.
26 But two men had remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those listed, but who had not gone out to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp.

The word rest, rested is the Hebrew '*nuach*' meaning to rest, remain, be quiet, to settle down, to dwell.

One term used to refer to the moving of the Spirit upon people is "rest." For the Holy Spirit to rest upon us, practically, it is important for us to be "rested," in a state of calm and quietness in our spirit before God, even if there is a lot of noise and disturbance around us. Guard your mind against all distractions, disturbances and things that may agitate you. Stay calm and rested in your spirit.

Step Out Boldly On The Spirit's Promptings

Acts 11:12
Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.

Pick up what the Spirit is saying through your spirit senses, and other ways He speaks to you. Commune with the Spirit and identify what He wants you to do. Then yield to what the Holy Spirit is leading you to do. Speak or act as He instructs. Release the word. Minister to the individual. Usually when you step out on the first few instructions and as you minister, the Holy Spirit will give you more directives. Keep flowing and releasing the gifts of the Spirit as He desires.

When He moves upon us, we must respond: ACT, SPEAK, YIELD

Revelation + Spoken Word + Faith Action = Manifestation of the Spirit

More power comes through exercise of the power you already have.

Take Risks

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21
19 Do not quench the Spirit.
20 Do not despise prophecies.
21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

We must not quench or extinguish the Spirit as He leads and prompts us. The more you are willing to step out and take risks, the more you make yourself available to the Holy Spirit and the more manifestations you will see. Be willing to "put reason aside" (get your head out of the way) when you recognize the leading or prompting of the Holy Spirit to say or do something. Not everything that the Holy Spirit says will fit into our reason or logic. This is where you step out and take a risk.

Remember it is not about your reputation. It is about glorifying God and about serving people. Be dead to yourself. You are not trying to get something for yourself by ministering in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. You are here only to glorify God and serve people.

Practice, Practice, Practice

2 Timothy 2:21
Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

As vessels, we need to be made useful and prepared or made ready. Part of becoming useful and being readied is to get equipped and trained. The gifts come from God. However, we can train,

mature and perfect our ability to work together with the Holy Spirit to manifest His power in better and greater ways. Even if you make mistakes, fumble, just don't quit. Keep desiring and keep stepping out—in other words, keep practicing.

Learn From Every Experience

Reflect on your experiences in manifesting the gifts of the Spirit. Learn from both your successes and failures. Keep building on your successes and avoid mistakes you have made previously.

Increase In Faith

Romans 12:6
Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

Galatians 3:5
Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

The gifts are released by faith. You build faith by meditating in the Word, hearing more stories of how God is working through other people, and being around people who are pursuing God to manifest in supernatural ways. Keep your faith built up. Meditate and declare God's Word on His anointing, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit.

Pray With Fasting

The more you pray the more you hear from God and the more detail you hear. New wineskin that contains new wine does not come without fasting and prayer. Pray a lot in tongues.

Receive Impartation

Romans 1:11
For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—

1 Timothy 4:14
Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

The gifts of God come from God. He is the only Source. "*A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven*" (John 3:27). However, God uses people to activate (get us started), and to impart more grace and anointing on existing gifts in our lives. Receiving activation or impartation adds to the strength and dimensions of the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. This can happen through the laying on of hands and prayer, by receiving through their ministry (listening

to their preaching, reading their books, etc.) and by association (working closely with them).

Grow In Your Function And Anointing

Every believer has a function for which God gives grace and accompanying gifts. Gifts empower membership functions and ministry offices. As you grow in your function, you will see the grace and gifting of God also grow on your life. An increase in the anointing for your ministry function causes an increase in the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit.

17. Proper Foundation For Releasing The Gifts

As we seek to pursue more and more of the manifestations of the Spirit, we must also be watchful to maintain a strong foundation from which we operate. In this chapter, we present guidance on several important areas we need to maintain, as we move in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Many of these have been distilled out of what has been observed from the lives of men and women greatly used by God in the present day as well as in church history. We can learn from their successes and even from the mistakes they made. Let's take these to heart.

Operate Out Of Relationship With The Lord, And Not Based On Methods Or Techniques

John 15:4-5
4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.
5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

While it is good to be taught and trained in how the gifts of the Spirit operate, remember everything in the Kingdom is based on personal relationship with the King. Be established and continually grow in your personal relationship and intimacy with the Lord. Operate out of relationship not out of methods and function.

Be Established In Your Identity In God

Do not live by the gifts. The gifts of the Spirit do not define or describe you. These are only tools we use to serve people. Don't base your identity in the gifts or functions you move in. Always live out of your personal walk with God, who you belong to and who you are in Christ.

If you must have spiritual manifestations to feel that God loves you, that God is near you, etc., then you are basing your identity in the gifts. This is wrong. You are who God says you are in His written Word.

If you must have other people hear about your gifts to make you feel good, then you are basing your identity on your gift. This is a sign of insecurity.

People who are struggling with issues of rejection, usually look for affirmation in response

to operating in the gifts of the Spirit. The right thing to do is to get healed from rejection, and learn to function from a place of wholeness and security in God.

Understand the difference between value and function. Your value in God is not based on the gifts operating through you. The gifts of the Spirit are expressed through you only to help you in serving others, and do not define your value.

Demonstrate Christlike Character

Ephesians 4:15
but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ

Serve gifts with fruit. Walking in the Spirit ensures that our lives bear the fruit of the Spirit. When we walk in the Spirit, bearing the fruit of the Spirit, and along the way, manifest the gifts of the Spirit, we can minister in a way people are able to readily receive through our lives.

Your life of Christlike character builds trust with people. The more trust you have among people, the greater liberty and faith you can exercise to flow in the gifts.

Follow Jesus. Reveal Jesus as you flow in the gifts of the Spirit.

Guard your heart and your motives. Let it always be to glorify Christ. Get self out of the way. It is not about you! It is about God and about the people. Do not use spiritual gifts to promote yourself. Stay away from cheap publicity, self-promotion, jealousy, or competition. Love must be your main motivation.

Don't play on people's emotions. Avoid hype, sensationalism, whipping up emotions, making false claims and false promises. Avoid exaggerations. Avoid making statements to boost one's own super-spirituality (John 7:18).

Understand the higher value of wisdom over revelation, because without wisdom, revelation can be misused.

Maintain Accurate Doctrine, Be Open To Correction, Stay Teachable

1 Timothy 4:16
Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Hebrews 13:9
Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

Embracing strange and various doctrines is like eating "bad food" that does not benefit you and could even harm you.

Stay with the core and essential doctrine of the Word of God and with teaching that helps you in maturing toward Christlikeness (Hebrews 6:1-2). This keeps you safe in the long run.

Follow Jesus' example. He moved with compassion, preached, and taught the Word, healed the sick, cast out devils and worked miracles. He has commissioned us to do the same to demonstrate God's compassion, win souls and make disciples. So, in all spiritual manifestations, we need to see Jesus glorified, people brought to saving faith, established as disciples and experience God's compassion toward them. Hence pursue healings, deliverance and miracles that meet people's needs.

Growing in your personal study of God's Word and being established in sound doctrine, helps you test what you are receiving (e.g., revelatory gifts) and keeps you from promoting error.

Watch out for some common errors:

Delusions of grandeur and megalomania: being deceived into thinking that one has become so powerful, so important, etc. We've seen in church history, people like John Alexander Dowie, proclaimed themselves to be Elijah the prophet, and so on

Savior mentality: as though you will be the one God will use to touch everyone, you have all the answers, and without you people cannot survive.

Doctrinal deviations: validate everything you teach and preach with the whole counsel of God. Just because God uses you in powerful manifestations does not mean you can preach or teach anything that comes to your mind. William Branham even though he was greatly used by God went into error in his preaching and teaching of the Word in the latter part of his life.

New Age teaching: Don't mix biblical truth with New Age, Eastern mysticism, and other non-biblical spiritual teachings.

Remember, the supernatural is not always spectacular. Don't miss the supernatural while looking for the spectacular (1 Kings 19:9-14).

The written Word reveals the Eternal Living Word to us. *"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me"* (John 5:39). Our revelation of the Eternal Word comes through His written Word. Any revelation of the Eternal Word must be verified in the light of the written Word. The revelation of the Eternal Word that comes through the Spirit, must also agree with the written Word (1

John 5:7).

Be teachable, be open to correction.

Psalm 141:5
Let the righteous strike me; It shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me; It shall be as excellent oil; Let my head not refuse it. For still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked.

Psalm 141 is a psalm of David. We see David's heart to receiving correction from the righteous. David referred to this as 'excellent oil'. It is something that will bless and enrich his life and will do the same for us.

Develop Self-Restraint

Galatians 5:22-23
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Self-restraint is the ability to be self-governing, to keep ourselves under the leading of the Holy Spirit and not move out on emotional or fleshly impulse. For example, you may need to hold a prophetic message until it is the right time to release it.

Don't become presumptuous in your desire to manifest the gifts. If God is leading you to do something, do it. Otherwise, temper your zeal and allow wisdom to rule. For example: If God is speaking, prophesy. Otherwise exercise self-restraint and keep quiet. When the Spirit prompts, step out boldly, take risks and move in faith. Always walk with wisdom from God.

Grow Within A Good Local Church Community

We are part of a body, a family, an army. God has made us and designed us in such a way that we are dependent on others. So, stay well connected and in good healthy relationships in a good local church.

No local church is perfect. But keep in mind, that God uses the imperfections in those around us to perfect the imperfections He sees in us.

Isaiah 65:8
Thus says the LORD: "As the new wine is found in the cluster, And one says, 'Do not destroy it, For a blessing is in it,' So will I do for My servants' sake, That I may not destroy them all.

New wine is found in the cluster—not in an isolated grape. Grow in an environment where the gifts of the Spirit are nurtured, where people are lovingly corrected and guided to mature in the things of the Spirit and are given freedom to release the manifestations of

the Spirit.

Stay planted. Don't keep floating around. The Holy Spirit is portrayed as wind and water—the believer is a living stone. The Holy Spirit "moves," the believer is to be "planted," "rooted," and "established."

Walk in right relationship with those who are your leaders.

Hebrews 13:17
Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Partner With All Peoples Church

All Peoples Church ministers beyond its own borders as a local church by reaching out all across India, especially North India, with a special focus on (A) Strengthening Leaders, (B) Equipping young people for ministry and (C) Building up the Body of Christ. Several training seminars for young people, and Christian Leaders conferences are held throughout the year. In addition, several thousands of copies of books are distributed free of cost in English and other Indian languages with the purpose of equipping believers in the Word and in the Spirit.

We invite you to partner with us financially by sending either a one-time gift or a monthly financial gift. Any amount that you can send to help us in this work across our nation will be greatly appreciated.

You can send your gift by cheque / bank draft payable to "All Peoples Church" to our office address. Else you can remit your contribution directly by bank transfer using our bank account details.

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Account Number: 0057213809
IFSC Code: CITI0000004
Bank: Citibank N.A., No. 5, M.G. Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001

Kindly note: All Peoples Church can only accept bank contributions from an India based bank account. When making your contribution, if desired, you can indicate the specific APC ministry area where you would like your contribution to be used. For additional details please visit ***apcwo.org/give***

Also, please remember to pray for us and our ministry whenever you can.
Thank You and God Bless!

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PDF versions of all the above books are available for free download from our church website at **apcwo.org/books**. Many of these books are also available in other languages. To request your free copy of these books, please send an email to **bookrequest@apcwo.org**
*Available only as PDF

Also visit our church website for free Audio and Video sermons, Sermon notes (**apcwo.org/sermons**), and many other resources you can use.

Attend A Weekend School

Weekend Schools, held in Bangalore, are geared to train and equip believers in specific areas of life and ministry. These are conveniently held on a Saturday 9am-6pm. Weekend schools are open to all believers from all churches and across denominations, who are interested in being trained and equipped. Below is a list of weekend schools that are currently being hosted.

Weekend School of Prophetic Ministry
Weekend School of Healing and Deliverance
Weekend School on Gifts of the Spirit
Weekend School of Prayer and Intercession
Weekend School on Inner Wholeness
Weekend School on Lifestyle Evangelism
Weekend School on God@Work
Weekend School of Urban Missions and Church Planting
Weekend School on Christian Apologetics

Please visit: **apcwo.org/weekendschool** for current schedule and to register online.

Host A Christian Leaders Conference

All Peoples Church provides Spirit anointed equipping and impartation for pastors, local church leadership, leaders of Christian organizations and others engaging in Christian ministry. In addition to anointed teaching, Spirit-led ministry and impartation, our teams engage in personal interaction and discussions with participants. Each Christian Leaders' Conference runs typically for 2 to 3 days focused on a specific theme. Participants will leave renewed, empowered, and equipped for greater impact and effectiveness in their ministry. Christian Leaders Conferences are typically hosted by a local church, a Christian ministry, a mission organization or denominational head-office for churches and pastors in its area or within its network or denomination. The hosting organization will cover the expenses of the conference as well as inviting participants. All Peoples Church will send its ministry team to serve the participants at the Christian Leaders Conference.

Some of the themes that our teams commonly minister on:

- **Revivals, Visitations and Moves of God**
- **Presence and Glory**
- **Kingdom Builders** (The Kingdom of God and Kingdom Building)
- **Level Ground**
- **The House of God**
- **Apostolic and Prophetic Ministry**
- **Ministering Healing and Deliverance**
- **Gifts of the Spirit**
- **Marriage and Family**
- **Equipping the Saints and Marketplace Transformation**

For additional details and a current listing of themes for Christian Leaders Conference, please visit: **apcwo.org/CLC**

To schedule and plan a Christian Leaders Conference please email us at: contact@apcwo.org

About All Peoples Church

At All Peoples Church (APC), our vision is to be salt and light in the city of Bangalore and a voice to the nation of India and to the nations of the world.

At APC, we are committed to presenting the complete, uncompromised Word of God in the anointing and demonstration of His Holy Spirit. We believe that good music, creative presentations, brilliant apologetics, contemporary ministry techniques, latest technology and so on, can never substitute the God-ordained approach of proclaiming the Word in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:4-5; Hebrews 2:3-4). Our theme is Jesus, our content is the Word, our method is Holy Spirit power, our passion is people, and our goal is Christlike maturity.

With our main base in Bangalore, All Peoples Church has several other church locations in India. To get a current listing and contact information of All Peoples Church locations, please visit our website at www.apcwo.org/locations or send an email to contact@apcwo.org

DO YOU KNOW THE GOD WHO LOVES YOU?

About 2000 years ago, God came into this world as a man. His name is Jesus. He lived a perfectly sinless life. Since Jesus was God in flesh, everything He said and did revealed God to us. The words He spoke were the very words of God. The things He did were the actions of God. Jesus did many miracles on the Earth. He healed the sick and suffering. He opened blind eyes, unstopped deaf ears, made the lame to walk and healed every kind of sickness and disease. He fed the hungry by miraculously multiplying a few loaves of bread, calmed the storm and did many other wonderful things.

All of these actions reveal to us that God is a good God who wants people to be well, whole, healthy, and happy. God wants to meet the needs of people.

So why then would God decide to become a man and step into our world? Why did Jesus come?

All of us have sinned and done things that are unacceptable before the God who created us. Sin has its consequences. Sin is like a great unsurpassable wall between God and us. Sin separates us from God. It prevents us from knowing and having a meaningful relationship with the One who created us. Therefore, many of us try to fill this void with other things.

Another consequence of our sins is eternal separation from God. In God's court, the penalty for sin is death. Death is eternal separation from God in hell.

But the good news is that we can be free from sin and be restored to God. The Bible says, **"For the wages [payment] of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).** Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world when He died on the cross. Then, three days later He rose again, showed Himself alive to many and then went back into heaven."

God is a God of love and mercy. He does not wish that any person be lost in hell. And so He came, to provide a way for the entire human race to be free from sin and its lasting consequences. He came to save sinners—to rescue people like you and me from sin and eternal death.

To receive this free forgiveness of sins, the Bible tells us that we have to do just one thing—accept what the Lord Jesus Christ did on the cross and to believe in Him wholeheartedly.

"… through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins" (Acts 10:43).

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

You too can receive forgiveness and cleansing for your sins if you will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The following is a simple prayer to help you make a decision to believe in the Lord Jesus

Christ and what He has done for you on the cross. This prayer will help you express your acceptance of what Jesus has done for you and receive forgiveness and cleansing for your sins. This prayer is only a guideline. You can also pray in your own words.

Dear Lord Jesus, today, I have understood what You did for me on the cross. You died for me, You shed Your precious blood and paid the penalty for my sins, so that I could be forgiven. The Bible tells me that whoever believes in You will receive forgiveness for their sins.

Today, I make a decision to believe in You and to accept what You did for me, by dying for me on the cross and rising again from the dead. I know I cannot save myself by my own good works, neither can any other human save me. I cannot earn forgiveness for my sins.

Today, I believe in my heart and say with my mouth that You died for me, You paid the penalty for my sins, You rose again from the dead, and by faith in You, I receive forgiveness and cleansing for my sins.

Thank You Jesus. Help me to love You, to know You more and to be faithful to You. Amen.

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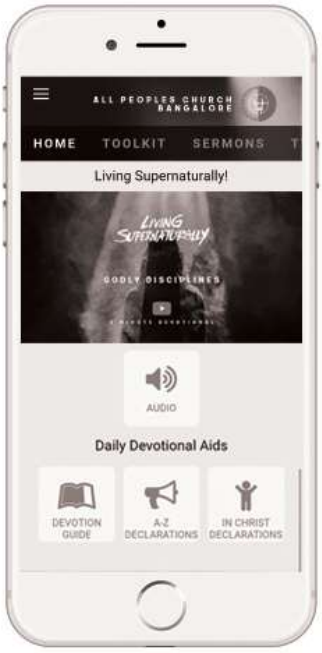

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IF YOU LOVE IT, TELL OTHERS ABOUT IT!

All Peoples Church Bible College
apcbiblecollege.org

All Peoples Church Bible College and Ministry Training Center (APC-BC), in Bangalore, India, provides Spirit-filled, anointed, hands-on training and equipping for ministering in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit along with doctrinally sound and intellectually stimulating study of God's Word. We believe in developing the whole person for ministry emphasizing godly character, deep roots in the Word of God, and powerful demonstrations of signs, wonders, and miracles—all flowing out of an intimate relationship with the Lord.

At APC-BC in addition to sound teaching we emphasize the love of God in demonstration, the anointing and presence of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural work of God. Several young men and women have been trained and sent out to fulfill God's call over their lives.

We offer three programs:

- One-year Certificate in Theology and Christian Ministry (C.Th.)
- Two-year Diploma in Theology and Christian Ministry (Dip.Th.)
- Three-year Bachelor's in Theology and Christian Ministry (B.Th.)

Classes are held each weekday, **Monday to Friday from 9:00am-1pm**. Day scholars, working professionals, and homemakers can attend these classes and continue with their workday after 1pm. Separate hostel facilities are available for men and women who desire to be residential students. Students participate in field work, special seminars, prayer and worship times in the afternoon sessions, each weekday from 2pm-5pm. The afternoon sessions are optional for day scholars (non-residential students). All students are encouraged to serve at one or more local churches over the weekends.

To **apply online**, and for more information about the college, curriculum, eligibility criteria, tuition costs and to download the application form, please visit: **apcbiblecollege.org**

APC-BC is accredited by the Nations Association for Theological Accreditation (NATA).

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The Lord's desire is for all believers to be endued with and demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit in order to bear witness to who He is. We are to be His witnesses everywhere and always. The gifts of the Spirit are like our "toolbox," tools given to us to manifest the power of the Holy Spirit, so that the Lord Jesus will be glorified and people will be touched, ministered to, and transformed, everywhere we go. The Holy Spirit distributes and manifests these gifts as He wills. But as co-workers with Him, we must earnestly desire these gifts and we must learn how to yield to cooperate, and properly release these gifts so that people will be ministered to as He desires, and Jesus will be glorified. Often because we do not know how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, we either quench, grieve, or even resist His expressions through us.

This book is intended to be a simple and easy-to-use training manual to help believers understand and learn how to flow with the Holy Spirit to release the gifts of the Spirit. The goal is to see believers moving and releasing the gifts of the Spirit regularly, anywhere, and at any time as the Spirit of the Lord moves through them.

Ashish Raichur

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